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Everett Alvarez Jr. and Floyd James Thompson

Two men, two fates

More than 700 U.S. servicemembers were taken prisoners of war in Vietnam. None endured longer than Floyd James Thompson and Everett Alvarez Jr. The two men represent the extremes of the POW experience — in captivity and in life.

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At least 14 dead, scores missing in Wash. mudslide

By P. SOLOMON BANDA AND MARTHA MENDOZA The Associated Press

OSO, Wash. - The scale of a massive mudslide's devastation in a rural village north of Seattle is becoming apparent days after a wall of heavy mud heaved houses off their foundations, toppled trees and left a gaping cavity on what had been a treecovered hillside.

At least 14 people are confirmed dead, and dozens more remain unaccounted for. Authorities are working off a list of 176 potentially missing people, though many of ⁴ A slide of this magnitude is very difficult to predict. There was no indication, no indication at all. 7

> Steve Thomsen Snohomish County public works director

those names likely are duplicates. It had been stormy for weeks, but warm sunshine offered a false sense of peace Saturday morning as visitors settled into their vacation homes and locals slept in.

Then came "a giant slump," said David Montgomery, an earth and space sciences professor at the University of Washington, describing the deep-seated slide resulting from long-term, heavy rainfall.

A scientist who documented the landslide conditions on the hillside that buckled had warned in a 1999 report filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of "the potential for a large catastrophic failure,' The Seattle Times reported late Monday.

SEE MUDSLIDE ON PAGE 8

$\mathop{\rm QUOTE}_{\rm OF\ THE\ DAY}$

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"We don't know if dust from the Sahara is as bad as diesel fuel or burning coal."

- Majid Ezzati, chair in global environmental health at Imperial College London, on a new report about global pollution by the World Health Organization

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TOP CLICKS

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Video games

"inFAMOUS: Second Son'



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MIDEAST

Attackers kill 4 in latest Kabul assault

AND JOSH SMITH Stars and Stripes

KABUL - Heavily armed militants attacked the office of Afghanistan's independent election commission Tuesday, detonating suicide vests and engaging in a fierce gunbattle with security forces less than two weeks before a landmark presidential election.

At least nine people, includ-ing five attackers, died during the assault, for which the Taliban claimed responsibility.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Seddiqi said two suicide bombers attacked the office in the morning. The security forces responded, and fighting erupted with the surviving attackers.

In addition to the five attack-

ers, two members of the Afghan security forces and two civilians - a candidate for the provincial council and an election commission staffer - died in the fighting, Seddiqi said. He cautioned that the death toll could rise as several more civilians were taken to the hospital in critical condition.

At least four people were wounded, including two policemen, police officials told The Associated Press

The attack, which came less than two weeks before elections in which voters will pick a successor to outgoing President Hamid Karzai, is the latest in a series of high-profile Taliban actions aimed at undermining the ballot and instilling a sense of insecurity among voters.

The guerrillas, who have vowed to disrupt the election, have repeatedly attacked Afghan campaign workers and election officials as well as places frequented by foreign aid workers and election monitors.

The fighting occurred near the ruined Darul Aman palace, which was destroyed by artillery fire in the 1990s when rival warlords fought for control of the capital before they were ousted by the Taliban.

At the time of the attack, workers in the office were preparing voting cards for the election, said Hashmat Stanakzai, spokesman for the Kabul Police Department.

"The attackers ... carried out an explosion at the gate and then entered the office, which is re-



An Afghan policeman guards the entrance to an election office after a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle outside the building on the edge of Kabul on Tuesday. Gunmen stormed into the office, trapping dozens of employees and killing at least nine people.

lated to the election commission Stanakzai said, adding that the attack began about 11:45 a.m.

For hours later in the afternoon. heavy gunfire and small explosions rocked the neighborhood, which is also home to presidential candidate Ashraf Ghani. He was away at a campaign event in another province. The Taliban immediately

claimed responsibility for the attack. Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, said a number of suicide attackers struck the office, and he denounced the coming vote as a "fake election."

United Nations officials condemned the killing of civilians during the attack.

"The (electoral commission) and its civilian workers are conducting a public service so that Afghans can vote - it is reprehensible that they have been deliberately targeted," deputy special representative for Afghanistan, Nicholas Haysom said in a statement

Also on Tuesday morning, Taliban insurgents attacked a bank in Asadabad, the capital city of Kunar province.



Members of the Afghan police Crisis Response Unit jump out of their vehicle at the scene of the attack in Kabul.

Kunar police chief Abdul Habib Sayedkhail said one suicide bomber blew himself up at the gate, while a second assailant entered the bank and opened

When it was over both insurgents were dead along with four government employees Meanwhile, two border guards and five insurgents were killed near Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan during an attack on a government outpost.



Army leaders: Cuts threaten ability of **US** to defend itself

By CHRIS CARROLL Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - Never mind the two-conflict strategy that once prevailed. If sequestration cuts return in 2016, the service branch in charge of fighting the country's ground wars could soon be unprepared to fight even a single major conflict, the Army's top leaders told Congress on

Testifying before the House Armed Services Committee, Army Secretary John McHugh and Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno hammered home the gloomy point that the Army's ability to defend national interests hangs in the balance. Not only must Congress work

to forestall billions in automatic budget cuts but it should support the Army's delicate balance of force structure worked out in the latest budget while finally giving ground on requests for a new round of base closures, they said.

"This is the time for protection and predictability, not politics," McHugh said.

Previous plans to draw down the active Army to 490,000 troops by 2017 have been replaced with a projected active force level as low as 440,000. If automatic budget cuts return once a two-year federal spending deal expires, end strength will be 420,000, with deeper-than-planned cuts to the National Guard and Army Reserve as well.

With a minimum of 440 000 active-duty troops, the Army could squeak by and likely meet the demands of the national defense strategy laid out in 2012, Odierno said. But he called assumptions about the length and scope of conflicts the Army is likely to face, as well as contributions by allies, 'somewhat ontimistic '

At the lower level, Odierno "I'm very concerned that at '420,' we cannot meet the defense strategic guidance. I doubt whether we could even execute one prolonged multiphase operation that is extended over a period of time.'

The Army needs Congress to approve another Base Realignment and Closure round as well, McHugh said.

While acknowledging the pain of base closures in local communities — McHugh said he'd had a base close during his tenure as a New York congressman - up to 20 percent of the Army's continental U.S. facilities are excess. according to a recent survey, he

The Army is beginning to recoup serious savings from the mid-2000s BRAC round, and would expect to eventually save billions of dollars a year from a new round he said

"It's hard. I know that, but it was necessary then and it's even said. "To put it simply, we can't afford to pay for the unnecessary upkeep ... of unneeded facilities. It wastes money we just don't

Odierno added that a new round of BRAC would involve mainly shutting down facilities and would thus be less expensive and result in quicker returns than the previous round, which involved significant force realignments and new construction.

"With a reduction of over 200.000 men and women from our Army we must reduce excess infrastructure," he said. "We need BRAC to do this.'

The Army leaders also asked Congress to support plans to restructure Army aviation. In its 2015 budget request, it proposed eliminating three combat aviation brigades and moving all of the National Guard's Apache attack helicopters to active units, while transferring Blackhawks to the Guard. In all, nearly 800 aircraft

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protection predictability. not politics.

John McHugh served in Army secretary and then

Illinois Army National Guard, criticized the plan, saying it would harm National Guard training opportunities and hamper the country's ability to maintain a ready Reserve force.

The change would eliminate the need for about \$12 billion in spending over the next five years, the Army estimates, and continue paying off in the future.

The moves affecting the Guard have caused some controversy both within the military and in Congress, but McHugh and Odierno pointed out that most of the cuts are happening in the active

Once current plans are in place. 54 percent of the Army's end strength will be in the reserve component, making it the only U.S armed service with a minority of its troops in the active component, Odierno said. Of the aircraft cuts, more than 80 percent would come from active units.

Don't let parochial political concerns hamstring the Army's ability to fight, the leaders pleaded.

"We need your leadership," McHugh said, "and we need your

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Training aboard the Blue Ridge

Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Michael Goodfellow instructs sailors before a live-fire exercise aboard U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge, which is currently on patrol in the East China Sea with embarked 7th

Locklear: US lacking the assets for a contested amphibious assault

By JON HARPER Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - The Navy and Marines do not have enough assets to carry out a contested amphibious operation in the Pacific if a crisis arises, the top commander of U.S. forces in the region told

lawmakers Tuesday.
As the war in Afghanistan winds down, Marine Corps leaders want the service to return to its roots of being a force that can attack enemies from the sea, as the Marines did frequently during World War II. But Adm. Samuel Locklear III. commander of U.S. Pacific Command, said that capability does not presently exist in his area of responsibility.
"We have had a good return of

our Marines back to the Asia-Pacific, particularly as the activities in the Middle East wind down in Afghanistan. ... But the reality is, is that to get Marines around effectively, they require all types of lift. They require the big amphibious ships, but they also require connectors (meaning landing craft and other amphibious vehicles). The lift is the enabler that makes that happen, so we wouldn't be able to (successfully carry out a contested amphibious assault

without additional resources)." His remarks come at a time when there are growing concerns in Japan and elsewhere that China

might try occupy the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. The islands are under Japanese ad-ministrative control, but China has claimed sovereignty over them. The Obama administration has said that the Senkakus fall under America's defense treaty with Japan, which would require the U.S. military to come to the aid of Japan in the event of an attack on Japanese territory by China or any other country. Last year, the Marines and Jap-

anese Self-Defense Forces conducted a large-scale amphibious warfare training exercise off San Clemente Island, Calif.

There are four amphibious ready groups in San Diego and one in Sasebo, Japan. Locklear said he has requested additional amphibious lift capabilities from the Pentagon and that request is under consideration, he told members of Congress.

Locklear partly blamed global force requirements for the problem. "I'm not the only combatant commander that desires amphibious shipping or the Marines that are on them. So there is a global competition among us as the world situation kind of moves around. (And) the global demand signal today is ... greater than what we can resource," he said.

He told lawmakers he sometimes must send amphibious forces that he has trained and

maintained to commanders in the Middle East and Europe. Going forward, he believes that the Pacific should be given the highest priority when it comes to amphibi-

ous capabilities. "In the Pacific, though, it is my view that as the Marines come back that we should optimize the capability of the Marines in the particularly in the area west of the [International] Date Line, and to do that we have to have adequate amphibious lift," he said.

During the same hearing, Army Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, the commander of U.N. and U.S. forces in Korea, raised doubts about his ability to effectively counter a

large-scale North Korean attack.
"I am concerned about the readiness of the follow-on forces in our theater. Given the indications and warnings and the nature of this theater and the threat that we face, I rely on rapid and ready forces to flow into the peninsula in crisis.

Scaparrotti agreed with the statement that low readiness among forces stationed outside Korea would cause a delay in the buildup of combat power, allow the enemy more time to build his defenses and likely prolong combat operations and lead to more American casualties in the event of a Korea contingency.

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Secretary McHugh to decide Sinclair's rank

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The secretary of the Army says he will have the final say on whether a disgraced brigadier general at the center of a sexual misconduct case retires at a lower rank with sharply reduced retirement pay.

John McHugh told a House

committee Tuesday that the case of Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair remains open a week after he was spared prison and sentenced to a reprimand and a \$20,000 fine.

The process is still ongoing. I have to make final certifications about rank and retirement.' McHugh told the Armed Services

Sinclair had a three-year affair with a female captain who accused him of twice forcing her to perform oral sex on him. He pleaded guilty to lesser charges of adultery and conducting inappropri-ate relationships with two others women. House Democrats called the Sinclair sentence shocking.

Navy mulls tobacco sales ban on ships, bases

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY AND JON HARPER Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy - The Navy is consider-ing a ban on all tobacco sales on ships and bases due to health concerns over the high rate of tobacco use among sailors, officials

The idea is "one option on the table" as Navy Secretary Ray Mabus explores ways to further curb tobacco use among sailors. said a Navy official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the subject.

However, if a ban is considered, Congress is likely to weigh in on the matter.

Cmdr. Tamara Lawrence, a spokeswoman for the secretary, confirmed Mabus is taking a new look at tobacco use across the service.

"We've already taken one step by ending price subsidies for tobacco products, and Secretary Mabus has asked his staff to look at additional ways to improve the health and readiness of our force," she said in an email. We are in the early stages of this process.

Navy Times first reported discussion of the possible ban.

Studies show military members use tobacco at higher rates than same-age civilians. A 2011 Defense Department survey showed 24 percent of troops smoked, compared with 20 percent of civilians of the same age. It also showed that more than 60 percent of Marines had used some form of tobacco in the previous 12 months.

Pentagon and service regulations on tobacco have tightened in recent decades after studies linked cigarettes, secondhand smoke and smokeless tobacco to health problems and poor fitness. DOD commissaries stopped discounting cigarettes in 1990s, and the Navy eventually limited their sale to exchanges on bases and ships.

The Navy has also tightened rules around smoking across the fleet. Beginning in the 1990s, it eliminated smoking breaks and required designated smoking areas be set

up away from nonsmokers in offices, surface ships and submarines. The Navy then banned smoking in submarines in 2010.

Still, pressure from the cigarette industry and the efforts of on-base retail outlets to lower prices have combined to keep tobacco products available, and generally cheap, on military bases, as well as Navy ships.

After the commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, Capt. Stanley W. Bryant, banned smoking and cigarette sales on the ship in 1993, a congressional subcommittee drafted language cementing cigarette sales on all ships, and handing over control of exchange stores on ships to the military's Morale, Welfare and Recreation program. The Navy then followed with a new regulation allowing smoking on all vessels.

Although the statute was overturned later by Congress, the story of the Roosevelt demonstrated the former power of the tobacco lobby and its interest in the military market.

Legislators on the MWR panel received higher donations from tobacco companies than their congressional colleagues, according to a National Institutes of Health study on the Roosevelt case. Internal documents from Philip Morris and its lobbying arm, the Tobacco Institute, showed that the Roosevelt ban was an industry target.

Critics say the military still encourages tobacco use by allowing discounted sales at its exchanges. DOD rules require that exchanges sell cigarettes at no more than the "most competitive" price in the surrounding community and no less than 5 percent below that price. Yet media reports have shown that many exchanges still price tobacco products well below those rates

In 2012, the Navy required its exchanges to price cigarettes at no less than the "most competitive" price outside the gates, removing the 5 percent discount.

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AF seeks possible victims of airman

By JENNIFER H. SVAN Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germanv - Air Force officials released a photo of convicted child molester Michael L. Merritt on Tuesday and said they are continuing their investigation into the former Ramstein Air Base airman.

Merritt, who had served as a technical sergeant, was sentenced last week to 25 years in federal prison for crimes he committed against victims in Germany and the United States

The Air Force is asking witnesses and potential victims who may have knowledge of crimes committed by Merritt or other perpetrators to contact the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. The agency's local tip line is: (+49) (0)171-745-5382. Individuals may also call the OSI field office on Ramstein at: DSN 314-480-5409; civilian (+49) (0)637-147-5779: or email afosi.det515. office@us af mil

Merritt pleaded guilty to 22 military charges and specifications, including sexual assault, kidnapping and sodomy. His pleas covered crimes against four girls, ages 5 to 14, from 2003 through 2013, according to information from the Air Force. OSI investigated a number of allegations involving U.S. military dependent children and one German child, both on and off base, Air Force officials said in a written statement Merritt pleaded guilty only to offenses involving U.S. military dependent children, officials said.

Iris Weinbrandt, a German



Michael I Merritt

prosecutor from Zweibrücken, which has jurisdiction for offbase crimes occurring in the Ramstein area, said Tuesday that her office had no incidents on file involving Merritt.

The last on-base incident involving Merritt at either Ramstein Air Base or Vogelweh was reported on March 27, 2013, the Air Force said.

Merritt, according to his record of trial, will have to register as a sex offender.

Most of the charges against Merritt stemmed from offenses he committed while he was at Ramstein, an assignment that began in October 2006 and ended in August 2013, when he was transferred to F.E. Warren Air Base in Cheyenne, Wyo., officials

He was sentenced to 50 years in prison by the military judge, Lt. Col. Grant Katz, but due to the terms of a pretrial agreement, his confinement will not exceed 25 years, according to the Air

Merritt was to be sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to serve his time, Air Force officials said last Merritt's punishment also in-

cluded reduction to airman basic, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and a dishonorable discharge. Air Force officials said Mer-

ritt's age is protected by the Privacy Act and cannot be released without consent.

Marcus Kloeckner contributed to this

story. svan.jennifer@stripes.com

Guantanamo guards face sex charges

By CAROL ROSENBERG The Miami Herald

The military is putting two Guantanamo guards on trial in Texas on charges alleging they sexually assaulted junior soldiers at the remote outpost at a time when commanders were grappling with the prison hunger strike, the military said Monday.

The separate courts-martial will take place next month by order of Army Maj. Gen. Joseph P. DiSalvo, the commanding officer of Army South, the headquarters unit for personnel activities of soldiers at the U.S. detention center in southeast Cuba.

In one case, 1st Sgt. Richard A. Smith, no age provided, is accused of raping a sergeant in January 2013 as well as sexually assaulting two other women at the base several months later. Smith, described as a reservist from Orlando, Fla., was activated to service about 10 weeks before the alleged

Smith also faces charges alleging he bit the neck of one woman. a corporal, and groped another woman for whom no rank was provided, suggesting she was a civilian contractor.

His charge sheet describes an alleged coercive environment of unwanted sexual advances - and worse — spanning seven months at Guantanamo. They include asking one junior female soldier to persuade another woman soldier to move in with him on his return to life in Florida; having an apparently consensual adulterous sexual relationship with a married specialist; and suggestively speaking with and touching a corporal despite her protests to stop.

In the other case, Sgt. Stevontae Lacefield, no age provided, is accused of groping a specialist who resisted him in May 2013 in his quarters as well as "wrongfully pursuing personal and sexual relationships" with four different privates in a 10-month span at the remote base. He's also accused of allowing one underage private to The charge sheets show the alleged misconduct began at a time when soldiers were replacing sailors as guards on the prison blocks.

drink liquor

One of Lacefield's alleged abuseof-power instances was described as occurring on a cellblock at the prison, which, as of Monday, held 154 foreign men as war-on-terror captives

At U.S. Southern Command, the South Florida headquarters responsible for the prison, Army Col. Greg Julian said the cases come at a time of increased Pentagon efforts to let soldiers know there's a way to file complaints against "predators who prey on subordinates."

The criminal proceedings were first disclosed over the weekend by the San Antonio Express News in Texas, after the two soldiers' cases appeared on a military docket as the lone April trials scheduled by the Army South headquarters at San Antonio's Fort Sam Houston.

The Express News report said the prosecutions marked the first sexual assault trials of non-commissioned officers assigned to the 12-year-old prison.

The Guantanamo prison is also investigating a sailor in a different sexual assault case. The Pentagon prison's 2,100-strong staff borrows troops from different military services, mostly the Army. The U.S. Navy suspect has not vet been charged, said Julian, and works in an administrative not guard job at the detention center.

The Express News cast next month's trials as the first cases by Army South "in which a guard was accused of assaulting another

In February, however, another Guantanamo guard, Staff Sgt. Brandon Shelton, was convicted at an Army South court-martial of harming the mission by having sex with a more junior soldier and mistreating another subordinate through inappropriate comments

The charge sheets show the alleged misconduct began at a time when soldiers were replacing sailors as guards on the prison blocks. It continued through one of the greatest periods of tension at the detention center - as captives protesting their circumstances engaged in a sweeping hunger strike during which SOUTHCOM poured in medical reinforcements to help conduct tube-feedings of

The documents, released to the Miami Herald on Monday, indicated that the charges were originally leveled against the two sergeants in October. Their subsequent pretrial hearings were held at Fort Sam Houston, according to Col. Hans Bush, the public affairs officer there.

Army Mai, Gregory B. Batdorff will serve as judge at the separate trials - for Smith April 3-4 and for Lacefield April 7-10.

Smith has spent 26 years in the military, first with the Air Force and Air Force Reserve from 1987 to 2000, then the Army National Guard for seven years before switching to the Army Reserves in February 2007. He had three other deployments before Guantanamo to Kuwait in 2003, Afghanistan

in 2007 and Iraq in 2009.

Lacefield, who lists his hometown as Waukesha, Wis., served twice in Iraq, according to his service record, in 2008 and 2010. and got to Guantanamo from an assignment with the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii.

Conviction in each case could be punished by life in prison, Ju-



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

A Pond Security service van sits in a parking lot at Kleber Kaserne in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Army cancels new security contract with German firm

By MATT MILLHAM Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN. Germany - After protests from rival contractors, the Army is taking another look at the multimilliondollar contract for security at its

posts in Germany.

The Army has terminated the five-year, \$322 million contract it awarded in January to German security company Sicherheit Nord and plans to reopen competition for the contract rather than fight a potentially expensive and lengthy battle to preserve the initial award.

In the meantime, Pond Security, which has some 1,800 guards at Army posts in Germany, will continue to man the Army's gates. The firm expects to begin negotiations for an estimated six-month bridge contract soon, said Chad Geier, Pond's chief of staff.

"Then we have to see what happens with the big contract, because it's still up in the air right now." he said.

By reopening the competition, "the government is not starting the process over again," accord-ing to the 409th Contracting Support Brigade.

Companies that originally bid for the contract will have the option to clarify aspects of their proposals and submit revisions. The 409th will make a new selection on the basis of those revisions and could again award the contract to Sicherheit Nord.

Sicherheit Nord declined to make any statements to Stars and Stripes about the contract.

U.S.-based Triple Canopy and Germany-based Pond each filed protests after the Army awarded its Germany-wide security contract to Sicherheit Nord in January. Both companies had bid for would elaborate on their protests though the 409th characterized them as alleging "that the government should not have awarded the contract to Sicherheit Nord and should have awarded the contract to a different vendor."

The government's decision to terminate the contract and reopen the competition did not signal that there was any merit to the protests, according to the 409th, but it would better serve the procure-ment process "because it allows both the offerors involved in the procurement and the government to ensure that there is a common understanding of the requirement, the content of each proposal, and the evaluation methodology.

Protests such as these are not uncommon, according to the contracting brigade. But they have complicated a transition that the Army had planned to have completed by the end of May. Pond, which has had the contract for years, was preparing to shed mil-lions of dollars of equipment associated with the Army contract, which accounts for 80 percent of the company's business. Sicherheit Nord, which was rushing to hire at least 1,200 guards to take over the job, has been told by the Army to "stop work" on its preparations for taking over the contract.

Geier said that Pond guards. who have been concerned over whether they'd be hired by Sicherheit Nord under the new contract, are secure where they are for now. Pond has no plans to cut employee wages under the bridge contract, which is expected to run for about six months

"In fact, they're getting raises through negotiations with the state tariff," he said.

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Report: Southern Calif. base sees more Marines killed at home than overseas

The Associated Press

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. More Marines from a Southern California base have died while in the United States than overseas at war in the last seven years, including a dozen killed in accidents on the same desert highway, a newspaper investigation showed.

Sixty servicemembers from the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms have died in the Middle East since 2007, while 64 have died on American soil from causes including auto crashes, suicide, homicide, training accidents, drownings and illness, the Desert Sun reported

The biggest number of stateside deaths, 28, came from off-duty vehicle crashes while stationed at the To have to go to war and then come back and die at home during peacetime, it just kind of puts it on a different level of tragic situation.

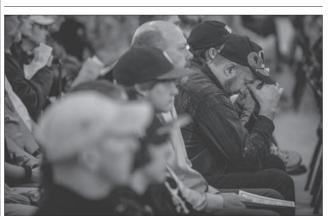
> Curtis Kolh San Bernardino County, Calif., sheriff's deputy

base about an hour's drive from Palm Springs. A dozen Marines died on Highway 62, a 151-mile route that runs from the Coachella Valley to the Arizona border and takes Marines from the base to the nearest hub for dining, nightlife and shopping.

"Any civilian that gets killed is still just as much of a tragedy, but just to have to go to war and then come back and die at home during peacetime," said Curtis Kolb. a San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy who has investigated many of the crashes, "it just kind of puts it on a different level of tragic situation."

Extreme speed was listed as a factor in more than half those crashes, and more than a third of the vehicle deaths involved alcohol, according to the newspaper.

Fifteen Marines committed suicide at the base between 2007 and 2012, the paper reported.



Bragg community marks somber day

Survivor Robert Beaujean bows his head and wipes away tears during a ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C., on Monday to commemorate the anniversary of the Green Ramp Disaster. Twenty years ago, an air crash over Pope Air Force Base produced a firehall that killed 24 soldiers and injured dozens more.

German airport workers call for strike Thursday

FRANKFURT, Germany Germany's main public-sector union has called on workers at Frankfurt and most of the country's other major airports to go on strike Thursday to reinforce pay demands for 2.1 million workers.

The 11-hour strike at Frankfurt, Germany's largest airport, will last from 3:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., Ute Fritzel, a spokeswoman for the ver.di union, said Tuesday

The strike will affect ground and freight handling, maintenance, administrative and security staff, she said. The airport warned passengers to expect "major disruptions and flight cancellations.

Ver.di later said that walkouts also are planned Thursday at Munich, Cologne-Bonn, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Hannover and Stutt-gart airports. It said those strikes also will affect the day's early shift and end by early afternoon.



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Norway's former PM in line to lead NATO

By SLOBODAN LEKIC Stars and Stripes

Norway's former socialist prime minister is likely to take over as NATO's top official later this year when the term of current Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen ends, diplomats

said Tuesday.

Jens Stoltenberg appears tapped to assume the top job at September's NATO summit in Wales after securing the backing of the United States and other leading members, said two diplomats at the alliance's Brussels headquarters who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Norway's Aftenposten newspaper reported on Monday that Stoltenberg's candidacy was supported by the U.S., Germany, Britain and France, and that the candidacy was expected to be announced at next week's meeting of NATO's foreign ministers.

NATO said it could not comment on the reports.

"I would refer you to the 28 member states," said a NATO official who could not be named under standing rules, "Decisions on the appointment of the next secretary-general are taken by allies, so we can't comment on the discussions or the timing."

Traditionally, a European civilian heads NATO's political office in Brussels, while an American officer commands the alliance's military forces from NATO headquarters in Mons, about 50 miles southwest of the Belgian capital. The secretary-general normally serves for a four-year term with a possible extension of one year.

Stoltenberg, 55, served two terms as Norway's head of government, from 2000 to 2001 and from 2005 until last year. At a time when other NATO member states were slashing defense budgets, Stoltenberg's government steadily expanded Norway's military spending and modernized its armed forces.

He negotiated a settlement to a marine dispute with Russia in the Barents Sea and cultivated a strong relationship with Moscow.

If confirmed by the member

states, Stoltenberg would take over at a time when the alliance is due to complete the withdrawal of its combat forces from Afghanistan after an inconclusive 12-year war in which it failed to defeat the Taliban insurgents and bring stability to that nation.

The appointment would also come at a time of falling defense budgets among alliance members and heightened tensions with Russia after its occupation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

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The USS Mahan moves up the Hudson River in New York during Fleet Week in 2004. A sailor was fatally shot aboard the Mahan at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., late Monday.

Sailor fatally shot, shooter killed in attack on Navy ship in Norfolk

BY BROCK VERGAKIS The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. - A civilian suspect approached a destroyer docked at the world's largest naval base late Monday, disarmed a petty officer on watch and fatally shot a sailor, according to the Navv.

Navy security forces then killed the suspect, who was authorized to be at Naval Station Norfolk and did not bring his own weapon on base, according to the Navy's statement. No other fatalities or injuries were reported.

The male sailor was shot about 11:20 p.m. on the USS Mahan, a guided-missile destroyer, base spokeswoman Terri Davis said Tuesday. She said she couldn't say whether the suspect had permission to be aboard

The base was briefly on lockdown. Davis would not describe any other circumstances of the shooting but said the scene was secure as of early Tuesday.

The Navy will release both men's names once their families are notified. Davis said.

The shooting on the Mahan comes about a month after the Navy held antiterrorism and force protection exercises on bases around the U.S., including an active-shooter drill at the Norfolk station

To get on the base, civilians must be escorted or have identification that allows them to be there. Authorized civilians can include Department of Defense emplovees, contractors and military family members. Davis would not elaborate on how the suspect was authorized to get on base.

The shooting comes months after a September incident at the Washington Navy Yard in which a gunman — identified as a contractor and former Navy reservist - killed 12 civilian workers before being shot to death.

The Norfolk base covers more than 6,000 acres and is the homeport for 64 ships, according to information the Navy provided in February. About 46,000 military members and 21,000 civilian government employees and contractors are assigned to the base and its ships, according to the Navy

Former sailor gets 10-year term for smuggling drugs

By ERIK SLAVIN Stars and Strines

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A former Yokosuka sailor was sentenced to 10 years in prison Monday for smuggling drugs into the country through the U.S.

military postal system.

Jonathan Octavio Nunez, 32,
who was extradited to Japan to face the charges, also received a \$49,000 fine following his conviction for violating Japan's narcotics control law, Yokohama district court officials said Tuesday.

The conviction and sentencing come almost 10 years after Nunez mailed illegal drugs to the post boxes of two civilian employees at Yokosuka Naval Base, according to court records. Nunez, a former USS Vincennes sailor who was administratively separated from the Navy in 2003, was unemployed and looking for a way to support the Japanese woman he married in May 2004, according to U.S. federal court documents.

In July 2004, he traveled to Canada and mailed a package containing almost 30,000 doses of MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy, to Yokosuka Morale, Welfare and Recreation employee Babe A. Cole, using a fake name and return address

Nunez sent another package containing 137 MDMA tablets, 20,076 mixed MDMA/methamphetamine tablets and 137 grams of crystal methamphetamine to MWR employee William Jenkins, according to a 2010 U.S. federal court filing.

Both packages were intercepted at Narita International Airport in July 2004. Cole and Jenkins were arrested soon afterward and each sentenced to seven years in prison after confessing that Nunez had paid them to receive the packages.

The conviction and sentencing come almost 10 years after Nunez mailed illegal drugs to the post boxes of two civilian employees in Japan.

Following Cole's and Jenkins arrests, Nunez he lived openly in Minnesota and Miami. He also lived in Peru briefly while working for his father's aviation parts company, according t

Japan began ceedings to bring Nunez back for trial under a bilateral extradition treaty in 2009. After years of appeals, Nunez was arrested in July 2013 Japanese

police at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, aboard a Japanese commercial flight parked on the tarmac

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report. slavin.erik@stripes.com Twitter: @eslavin_stripes

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NATION



RICHARD DREW/A

James Brady, left, and Andrew Rossig, two parachutists who jumped from 1 World Trader Center in September, are accompanied by attorneys Timothy Parlatore, background left, and Andrew Mancilla to surrender to police in New York on Monday.

WTC parachute jump condemned as 'selfish'

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the New York police commissioner denounced the parachute jump off I World Trade Center last fall by three skydiving enthusiasts as a lawless act that put others in danger.

"The Port Authority joins the NYPD in condemning this lawless and selfish act that clearly endangered the public," the agency said in a statement early Tuesday. "One of the jumpers worked construction at the WTC and violated the spirit of respect and reverence for this sacred site that almost all connected with the WTC project feel."

Four men — three daredevils and someone accused of being an accomplice — were arrested Monday in connection with the Sept. 30 "BASE jumping" from the nation's tallest building. The acronym stands for "building, antenna, span, earth."

They were arraigned on charges including felony burglary. "These arrests should send

a message to anyone thinking about misusing a landmark this way," Police Commissioner William Bratton said.

The arrests came days after a New Jersey teenager was accused of unlawfully entering the sist, eluding an inattentive security guard and spending about two hours atop the 1.776-foot-tall tower. The skyscraper, still under construction, crowns the rebuilt World Trade Center, a project steened in security concess.

The NYPD said last fall that investigators were looking for two parachutists in dark jumpsuits seen floating near the building around 3 a.m. on Sept. 30, landing by a nearby skyscraper and walking away.

ing away.

It was "very exhilarating," one of the accused jumpers, Andrew Rossig, said Monday as he and co-defendant James Brady headed to a police precinct to surrender.

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TOP ★ CRUISES

Physical Control of the Contr

NSA restrictions are eyed

By EILEEN SULLIVAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House wants the National Security Agency to get out of the business of sweeping up and storing vast amounts of data on Americans' phone calls

The Obama administration this week is expected to propose that Congress overhaul the electronic surveillance program by having phone companies hold on to the call records as they do now, according to a government official briefed on the proposal.

The New York Times first reported the details of the proposal Monday night. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the plan.

Details of the government's externed proper phone records collection program were disclosed last year by former NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden. Privacy advocates were outraged to learn that the government was retaining phone records of innocent Americans for up to five years. Obama promised to make changes to the program in an effort to win back public support.

The White House proposal would end the practice of sweeping up the phone records of millions of Americans and keeping those records for five years so the numbers can be searched for national security purposes. Instead, the White House is expected to

propose that the phone records be kept for 18 months, as the phone companies are already required to do by federal regulation, and that it be able to preserve its ability to see certain records in specific circumstances approved by a judge.

According to a senior administration official, the president will present "a sound approach to ensuring the government no longer collects or holds this data, but still ensures that the government has access to the information it needs to meet the national security needs his team has identified."

The president's plan, however, relies on Congress to pass legislation — something that has so far seemed unlikely.



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NATION

Mudslide: Geomorphologist predicted in 1999 'large catastrophic failure'

That report was written by geomorphologist Daniel J. Miller and his wife, Lynne Rodgers Miller, The Times said. "We've known it would happen at some point," Daniel Miller told the newspaper.

Snohomish County Executive John Lovick and Public Works Director Steve Thomsen said Monday night they were not aware of the 1999 report. "A slide of this magnitude is very difficult to predict," Thomsen told The Times, "There was no indication, no indication at all."

At a news conference in the Netherlands on Tuesday, President Barack Obama asked Americans to send their thoughts and prayers to Washington state as search operations continue. The president called Washington Gov. Jay Inslee early Tuesday, said Jaime Smith, an Inslee spokeswoman.

Within hours of the mudslide, emergency crews were searching for life in a postapocalyptic scene, dodging chunks of splintered birch trunks, half-buried pickup trucks and growing pools of water from the now-blocked Stillaguamish River.

Ed Hrivnak, who was co-piloting an aircraft that was the first to arrive at the scene, said a lot of the houses weren't buried. When they got hit, "the houses exploded." He said cars were crushed into little pieces, their tires the only signs that they had been vehicles.

He said he saw people so thoroughly covered in mud that searchers could spot them only by the whites of their waving palms. His helicopter rescued eight people, including a 4-year-old boy who was up to his knees in concretelike compressed mud.

The mud was so sticky, the rescuers were worried about getting stuck so the helicopter hovered about a foot away and the crew chief tried to pull him out. "He was suctioned in that mud so much that his pants came off," Hrivnak said.

The boy was taken to a hospital and was reunited with his mom. Hrivnak said the boy's father and three siblings are missing.

Rescuers racing in firetrucks and ambulances screeched to a stop at the edge of the wasteland. Somewhere, someone was crying for help. When a team of firefighters waded chest-deep into the mud, they had to be rescued themselves, and the ground search was suspended overnight Saturday, with the death toll at three.



This massive mudslide near Arlington, Wash., killed at least 14 people on Saturday and left almost 200 missing.

"He (a 4-year-old boy) was suctioned in that mud so much that his pants came off. 7

Ed Hrivnak co-pilot of rescue helicopter

On Sunday, after geologists deemed the area stable enough to re-enter, another five bodies were found. By Monday, when another six corpses were located, exhaustion and despair were overtaking the early adrenaline and alarm.

The threat of potential flash floods or another landslide also loomed over rescuers. On Monday, some crews had to pull back because of concern that a hillside could

The dry, sunny weather had turned to rain, which was expected to continue throughout the day.



Rescue workers remove a body from the wreckage of a home near Oso, Wash., that was destroyed by the mudslide.

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WORLD



AP photos

Crewmen on board an RAAF AP-3C Orion aircraft search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 over the Indian Ocean on Monday.

Missing jet search area narrows

By Scott McDonald AND EILEEN NG The Associated Press

KUALALUMPUR, Malaysia—Malaysia said Tuesday that it has narrowed the search for a downed jetliner to an area the size of Texas and Oklahoma in the southern Indian Ocean, while Australia said improved weather would allow the hunt for possible debris from the plane to resume.

The comments from Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein came a day after the country's prime minister announced that a new analysis of satellite data confirmed the plane had crashed in a remote part of the southern Indian Ocean, killing all 239 aboard.

But the searchers will face a daunting task of combing a vast expanse of choppy seas for suspected remnants of the aircraft sighted earlier.

There had been two corridors for the search. Hishammuddin said operations had been halted in the northern corridor that swep up from Malaysia toward Central Asia, as well as in the northen section of the southern corridor that arches down from Malaysia toward Antarctica.

That still leaves a large area of 1.6 million square kilometers 622,000 square miles, but just 20 percent of the area that was previously being searched.

In remarks to the Malaysian Parliament on Tuesday, Prime Minister Najib Razak cautioned that the search will take a long time and "we will have to face unexpected and extraordinary challenges."



Relatives of Chinese passengers onboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 cry as they protest outside the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing on Tuesday.

Late Monday, Najib announced that the Boeing 777 had gone down in the sea with no survivors. That's all that investigators and the Malaysian government have been able to say with certainty about Flight 370's fate since it disappeared March 8 shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur for Beijing.

Left unanswered are many troubling questions about why it was so far off course. Experts piecing together radar and satellite data believe the plane back-tracked over Malaysia and then traveled in the opposite direction to the Indian Ocean.

Investigators will be looking at various possibilities including mechanical or electrical failure, hijacking, sabotage, terrorism or issues related to the mental health of the pilots or someone else on board.

"We do not know why," the airline's chief executive, Ahmad Jauhari Yahya, told reporters. "We do not know how. We do not know how the terrible tragedy happened."

Najib's announcement set off a storm of anguish and anger among the families of the passengers and crew, two-thirds of them Chinese.

Nearly 100 relatives and their supporters marched to the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing, where they threw plastic water bottles, tried to rush the gate and chanted, "Liars!"

President Xi Jinping ordered President Xi Jinping ordered Minister Zhang Yesui, to Kuala Lumpur to deal with the case, and Deputy Foreign Minister Xie Hangsheng told Malaysia's ambassador that China wanted to know exactly what led Najib to announce that the plane had been lost, a statement on the ministry's website said.

Plane hunt uniquely hard due to conditions

By Rod McGuirk
The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Not one object has been recovered from the missing airliner that Malaysian officials are now convinced plunged into the southern Indian Ocean 17 days ago. Some of the pieces are likely 11,500 feet underwater. Others are bobbing in a fickle system of currents that one oceanographer compares to a pinball machine. And by now, they could easily be hundreds of miles away from each other.

The job of gathering this wreckage, and especially the black boxes that will help determine what happened to Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, is an unprecedented challenge.

The crews who needed two years to find a black box from the

Air flight lost in We're not the Atlantic in 2009 had searching more much for a information to needle in go on. "Even a haystack though - we're still trying

haystack is. 7 Air Marshal Mark Binskin Australia deputy defense chief

to define

where the

though that was the biggest and most complicated search for an aircraft in the ocean ever conducted, it was a relatively refined area compared

with what we're talking about here," said U.S. un-

derwater wreck hunter David Mearns, who advised both British and French investigators in the Air France case.

It was analysis of satellite data, rather than any confirmed wrecage, that led Malaysia to conclude Monday that Flight 370 plunged into the Indian Ocean 1,550 miles southwest of the Australian west coast city of Perth, and that all 239 people aboard died.

Geoff Dell, discipline leader of accident investigation at Central Queensland University, said Tuesday that if the black boxes are found, it would be the most difficult search for a lost plane ever to succeed.

"We're not searching for a needle in a haystack," said Air Marshal Mark Binskin, Australia's deputy defense chief. "We're still trying to define where the haystack is."

Dell said there's an urgent need to find any wreckage from the plane. Even one piece would allow oceanographers to plot where it might have drifted from. That information, combined with the vague course of the plane calculated by British satellite company Inmarsat, could greatly refine the search area for pieces that have sunk.

Defense chief resigns as troops leave Crimea

By Peter Leonard The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine - Lawmakers in Ukraine accepted the resignation of the defense minister Tuesday as thousands of troops began withdrawing from the Crimean Peninsula, now controlled by

In an address to parliament, Igor Tenyukh said he rejected criticism that he had failed to issue clear instructions to troops, but that he reserved the right to step down. Lawmakers initially refused his resignation but later accepted it. A majority then voted to appoint Col. Gen. Mikhail Kovalyov as his replacement.

Authorities in Ukraine have come under criticism for their often hesitant reaction to Russia's annexation of Crimea, which was formalized following a hastily organized referendum this month.

In Crimea, Ukrainian soldiers piled onto buses and began their journey to Ukrainian territory on Tuesday as former comrades saluted them from outside a base overrun by Russian forces.

Tenyukh said he had received requests to leave Crimea from about 6,500 soldiers and familv members — meaning about two-thirds of the 18.800 military personnel and relatives stationed there were so far taking their chances in the peninsula newly absorbed by Russia. He said 4,300

"servicemen and 2,200 family members wish to continue serving in Ukraine's armed forces and will be evacuated from the autonomous republic of Crimea.

In an apparent effort to consolidate control from Kiev, Ukrainian police forces trying to detain a prominent member of a radical nationalist movement that was key in recent anti-government demonstrations killed the man after he opened fire, the Interior Ministry

Sector's



Above: Ukrainian marines leaving their base wave from a bus in Feodosia, Crimea, on Tuesday. Below: Ukrainian Defense Minister Igor Tenyukh pauses as he answers a question during a news conference at a hotel in Kiev, Ukraine.

Muzychko, better known by his nom de guerre, Sashko Bily, had become a recurring figure in Russian attempts to portray Ukraine's interim government as dominated by radical nationalists. Moscow has cited the purported influence of groups like Right Sector to justify the absorption of Crimea.

Many in Ukraine downplay Right Sector's importance. Police say Muzychko was sought for organized crime links, hooliganism and for threatening public

Ukraine's new government has struggled to exert authority since last month's overthrow of Russian-supported President Viktor Yanukovych.

Officials in Moscow, meanwhile, are warning Kiev that the country's new government may have to pay more for Russian gas, which is the main part of Ukraine's energy

President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said on Tuesday that the gas discount was linked to the lease deal for the Russian Black Sea fleet's presence in Crimea. Now that Crimea is part of Russia and Moscow does not have to pay for the lease, Russia sees "no reason for the discount," Peskov said, quoted by Russian news agencies.

He added that it is up to gas company Gazprom to set the price for Ukraine.



Egypt to issue verdict on mass trial April 28

MINYA, Egypt - An Egyptian judge said he will issue a verdict on April 28 in a new mass trial of 683 suspected Islamist supporters of ousted president Mohammed Morsi for murder and attempted murder after a single session boycotted by defense lawyers.

Judge Said Youssef held trial in the city of Minya, south of Cairo, He went ahead with the session on Tuesday, hearing witnesses in the case despite the lawyers'

The same judge sentenced more than 520 defendants to death on Monday in a similar mass trial. which lasted only two sessions.

Egyptian authorities are holding a series of mass trials as part of a monthslong crackdown on Islamists and the Muslim Brotherhood since the military's July ouster of Morsi.

Children wearing masks walk home after school in Beijing.

NG HAN GUAN/AF

WHO: Pollution kills 7M annually

The Associated Press

LONDON - Air pollution kills about 7 million people worldwide every year, with more than half of the fatalities due to fumes from indoor stoves, according to a new report from the World Health Organization published Tuesday

The agency said air pollution is the cause of about one in eight deaths and has become the single biggest environmental health risk.

"We all have to breathe, which makes pol-lution very hard to avoid," said Frank Kelly, director of the environmental research group at King's College London, who was not part of the WHO report.

One of the main risks of pollution is that tiny particles can get deep into the lungs, causing irritation. Scientists also suspect air pollution may be to blame for inflammation in the heart. leading to chronic problems or a heart attack.

Last year, WHO's cancer agency classified air pollution as a carcinogen, linking dirty air to lung and bladder cancer.

WHO's report noted that women had higher levels of exposure than men in developing

"Poor women and children pay a heavy price from indoor air pollution since they spend more time at home breathing in smoke and soot from leaky coal and wood cook stoves," Flavia Bustreo, WHO Assistant director-general for family, women and children's health, said in a statement.

Other experts said more research was needed to identify the deadliest components of pollution in order to target control measures more effectively.

"We don't know if dust from the Sahara is as bad as diesel fuel or burning coal," said Majid Ezzati, chair in global environmental health at Imperial College London.

Kelly said people could also reduce their individual exposure to choking fumes by avoiding traveling at rush hour or by taking smaller

Despite the increasing use of face masks in heavily polluted cities such as Beijing and

Tokyo, Kelly said there was little evidence that they work. The real problem is that wearing masks

sends out the message we can live with polluted air," he said. "We need to change our way of life entirely to reduce pollution."



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Ernie Gates

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Reform can survive Tate, Sinclair verdicts

By DAN K. THOMASSON McClatchy-Tribune News Service

he verdicts are in and only one thing seems certain. No one in the two sensational military sexual the general or his woman scorned nor the Naval Academy midshipman and his oncereluctant accuser nor for that matter the woeful system that prosecuted the whole

To paraphrase a legal adage, bad cases often bring bad results, and that above anything else seems to be the conclusion here. Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair escapes without jail time after being charged with forcing a sexual act on his ex-mistress, an allegation that could have brought him life in prison. He gets reprimanded and fined \$20,000. He now just wants to hug his wife and kids. I'll bet he does, if they're dumb enough to accept him.

The mistress — who was his regular bedmate for three years — gets to keep her anonymity (at least in the national press) but loses her veracity by apparently lying about a key bit of evidence, resulting in the general's lenient sentence.

One might say these two deserve each other. Maybe they should be the ones to hug or whatever and make up.

Åt least Sinclair, the highest ranking officer to be tried for an adulterous affair, was expected to have enough judgment to avoid such a dangerous liaison. He had full knowledge of the cardinal rule he was breaking. That simply is that one can do anything in the Army, but just don't get caught. Apparently, the heat of Iraq and Afghanistan inflamed him. He also reportedly had assignations with other women.

In the matter of Joshua Tate, a former Navy forbal player, the lack of maturity on everyone's part legitimately could be cited as a mitigating factor no matter what opponents of the current method of military justice might demand. Both Tate and the female fellow midshipman who clearly was pressured into accusing him of taking advantage of her while she was too drunk to resist were guilty of gross irresponsibility. This all took place at an off-campus Toga/Yoga party where excessive alcohol consumption mixed badly with raging hormones.

Tate was acquitted of the allegations after three days of lurid testimony in which his alleged victim admitted she didn't remember too much about that night. She had for nine months just fervently wished that the whole thing would go away and even asked Tate to lie for her about what happened. She finally capitulated to threats from another female classmate to bring charges.

The entire matter turned on whether one can be too drunk to consent. The judge decided the prosecution didn't make its case that she had reached that point.

This is a tragedy for both parties. They both lose. Tate has agreed to leave the academy rather than face charges of lying. While the young lady will remain in line for a degree, she has been the object of mindless, despicable depictions in the social media and is considered a campus pariah. She and Tate and others showed hideous judgment that often accompanies college

social activities, especially in high-octane, rigidly disciplined schools like the military academies. Blowing off steam becomes almost a necessity.

That is not meant to trivialize or excuse what occurred here.

Unfortunately, that has gone on too long not only at the academies but in the regular callous response of the military justice system and chain of command to those women who allege sexual exploitation and harassment on the part of their superiors or are afraid to do so.

These high-profile cases—Sinclair's and Tate's—were affected by political pressure. In the Sinclair matter, the discovery of high-level emails discussing the political implications tainted the process. Those in and out of Congress seeking to bring major changes in the military's adjudication of sexual abuse cases were outraged by Tate's acquittal. Actually the original decision to go ahead with the prosecution obviously was based to some degree on concern about the political fallout.

Neither outcome should be considered prime examples for reforming an obviously bad system. In truth, the cases probably should not have been brought considering the circumstances. There was a strong implication of an angry, jitted woman in the Sinclair affair. While clearly guilty of breaking military law, he was overcharged. The burden of proof of Tate's accuser was too heavy to carry given her own indiscretions and uncertainties.

Dan K. Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Data on vets' grad rates dispel 'dropout' myth

By MICHAEL DAKDUK

ata on nearly 1 million veterans enrolled in postsecondary education from 2002 to 2010 was released this week, giving the public a window into how student veterans progress academically.

The good news: Our nation's heroes graduate a levels comparable to their peers in higher education, which means our nation made the right investment by providing returning veterans with access to the funding they need to obtain career skills for their post-military life.

The initiative — which was dubbed the Million Records Project and was spearheaded by Student Veterans of America in partnership with the National Student Clearinghouse and the Department of Veterans Affairs — showed completion data, fields of study and demographic information on nearly I million veterans. The completion rate for student veter-

ans beginning their enrollment within the eight-year window, 2002-10, was over 51 percent. That number, a rate expected to rise over time, is far more settling than the public narrative previously being shaped. Not too long ago veteran advocates were combating the notion that veterans drop out in high numbers — even as high as 88 percent in their first year! Many veteran advocates never subscribed to such an extreme picture being presented. This study,

while far more sobering, should be carefully analyzed and appreciated for what it is and what it is not. The Million Records Project is a better

snapshot of veterans primarily enrolled under the Montgomery GI Bill, a benefit that while not as generous as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, still helps hundreds of thousands of transitioning servicemembers begin their path toward higher education. The Montgomery GI Bill provides a monthly, flat-rate benefit, whereas the Post-9/11 GI Bill provides the highest in-state tuition rates for veterans, a housing allowance, an optional Yellow Ribbon Program for students attending private institutions to offset the difference in tuition and fees, and benefits for other education-related costs. The scope of this latest study does not fully capture the completion rates of Post-9/11 GI Bill veterans enrolled today.

Consider this reality for student veterans prior to the Post-9/11 G Bill, a majority of which is captured in this study: In October 2002, the benefit for the Montgomery GI Bill (active duty) was valued at \$900 per month for full-time college students. For those enrolled under the reserve version, the monthly amount was \$276. During the 2002-03 cadedmic year, the average cost of attendance at all postsecondary institutions was \$14,298.

The Montgomery GI Bill is hardly a benefit comparable to the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

We should be ecstatic about the completion rates displayed by veterans under the Montgomery GI Bill, a program that was in dire need of updating given the rising costs in higher education. While the new data's results are re-

vealing, they should be analyzed with an appreciation for their limitations and the need for additional data. This report clearly states that it is premature to make any strong statements about the success of veterans enrolled under the new Post-9/11 GI Bill program. Since the Post-9/11 GI Bill was implemented recently — in 2009 — not enough time has passed for veterans to complete their postsecondary programs. Consequently, data are limited on

this group of student veterans.

Most importantly, though, this report
moves the dialogue regarding student
veterans' success in a positive direction.
Veteran advocates have long argued that
veterans enrolled in postsecondary programs graduate at rates similar to, or
above, their peers. We must continue to
create and foster a pathway for student veterans to achieve educational success.

Michael Dakduk is a former executive director of Student Veterans of America. He led the Million Records Project partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Student Clearinghouse and SVA. He is currently the vice president of military and veterans affairs for the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities.

Tell us what you think

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OPINION

GOP sure only of Ukraine's political value

By DOVLE MCMANUS Los Angeles Times

ere's what the United States has done so far in an attempt to deter further Russian incursions into Ukraine: applied two rounds of economic sanctions and asked Congress to approve \$1 billion in loan guarantees for

Here's what President Barack Obama

says he won't do:
"We are not going to be getting into a military excursion in Ukraine," he told a television station in San Diego last week.

The president's careful response and unwillingness to consider military intervention has met with general support from other Democrats. But Republicans have been sharply critical.

"This is the ultimate result of a feckless foreign policy in which nobody believes in America's strength anymore," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., charged this month.

The sniping is no surprise given the partisan divide in Washington. But would a Republican in the White House instead of Obama actually plot a different course?

That would depend entirely on which Republican we're talking about. The GOP has long been divided on foreign policy, and Ukraine has exposed fault lines that are likely to grow as the Republicans' 2016 nomination contest nears.

On foreign policy in general, and on Ukraine in particular, Republicans fall into three camps; hawks, realists and libertarians.

Let's start with the hawks. McCain, the hawks' leading voice on Ukraine, has been warning against a resurgent Russia at least since his 2000 presidential campaign, when he called for sanctions against Putin over Russia's actions in Chechnya. In the current crisis, he is still not calling for U.S. boots on the ground, but he has called for immediate shipments of small arms and ammunition to Kiev, as well as U.S. intelligence-sharing. "The United States should not be imposing an arms embargo on a victim of aggression," he said last week. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a younger

hawk, has gone a step further, calling not only for military aid to Kiev but also for suspending cooperation with Russia on other diplomatic projects, including negotiations with Iran, "Put simply, Russia should no longer be considered a responsible partner on any major international issue, wrote last week in what amounted to a call for a new Cold War.

William Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard, may be the most hawkish of the hawks. Last week, he told CNN that "deploying ground troops ... should not be ruled out.

Closer to the center of the GOP is moderate conservative Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a realist when it comes to foreign policy.

Corker had the courage to praise

Obama's economic sanctions as "a step in the right direction," although he said he thought the president should add tougher measures. "We should send some shock waves through the Russian economy," he

But military aid can wait, Corker said. "I don't know that that's something we should be doing right away."

Over the long run, the United States should strengthen its military relationship with Ukraine, Corker said — but not now, in the heat of the crisis. "Military assistance isn't the priority today," he said. "It's to establish with the Ukrainians that we're going to be with them over the long haul."

The calmest part of the Republican

Party when it comes to Ukraine may be its most traditional realists, who ran foreign policy during several presidencies.

The main U.S. goal in Ukraine, former national security adviser Brent Scowcroft said last week, should be to make sure the conflict in Russia's backyard doesn't spread to other countries or other issues.

"I don't think it's an issue of that great consequence," Scowcroft said of Crimea. It would be a mistake, he said, to try to match Russia "belligerence by belligerence

"That may be where we end up, but I doubt we have to start there. Finally, there are the libertarians, which



Senate Foreign Relations Committee ranking member Bob Corker, R-Tenn., on military aid to Ukraine: "I don't know that that's something we should be doing right away."

brings us to Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., who's at the top of early polls of potential Republican presidential nominees. Paul has been working hard in recent months to make his positions sound closer to the party's mainstream, which means criticizing the president and trying to sound hawkish.

But as a libertarian, he still wants to wage a minimalist foreign policy. The current situation has left him sounding a bit

"If I were president, I wouldn't let Vladimir Putin get away with it," Paul announced in a column in Time magazine. What would he do? Among other steps, he'd suspend all U.S. economic aid to Ukraine, because some of the money might end up in Russia. In short, he'd destroy the Ukrainian economy in order to save it.

But the senator didn't go as far as his far more isolationist libertarian father, who wrote in USA Today that even that much activism in Ukraine would be too much. "Why does the U.S. care which flag will be hoisted on a small piece of land thousands of miles away?" Ron Paul wrote. "So

That attitude may have the most resonance with the American people. A Pew Research Center poll conducted in early March, before Crimea was annexed, found that most Americans believed the United States should "not get too involved" in the conflict. That included 50 percent of Republicans, against only 37 percent who favored taking a firm stance against Russia.

The crisis in Ukraine has presented a new opportunity for Republicans to snipe at the Obama administration, and they have embraced the task enthusiastically But the pile-on isn't without risk. Debate about what to do about Russia has also caused new fissures within the party, and they're unlikely to be healed before 2016.

Doyle McManus is a Los Angeles Times columnist

Think Russia's land grab is unique? Think again

By Eugene Kontorovich

t has become a truism in discussions of Russia's takeover of Crimea that in the post-World War II international order, countries no longer rewrite borders through force — or if they do, rarely find themselves faced with determined opposition from other states. As Secretary of State John Kerry put it, the Crimea campaign is a "19th-century act."

Such statements ignore major pieces of inconvenient history. Though it is too early to say much about the 21st century, the late 20th century saw countries gobble up foreign territory. Indeed, even the more modest claim that such territorial conquest is unknown in Europe is not true. Sometimes these actions met determined international opposition, but just as often they did not. Immediate objections fade. Indeed, a comprehensive study of post-WWII conquest finds that United Nations condemnation happens in well under half the cases. Russian President Vladimir Putin need-

ed to look no further than his Black Sea neighbor Turkey for inspiration. In 1974, Turkey invaded northern Cyprus, and continues to occupy the northern third of the island under an unrecognized puppet regime, Cyprus, a member of the European Union, is not a member of NATO. That has not prevented the development of close relations, and even solicitude, from the EU toward its own occupier. As Turkey was grabbing Cyprus, Moroc-

co snatched the massive and resource-rich Western Sahara — like Russia's Crimea move, in a swift action that did not result in the firing of a shot. The Moroccan inva-sion was met with a U.N. Security Council condemnation, which was shrugged off, Although no nation has recognized Moroccan sovereignty over the occupied area, Morocco remains a close ally of the United States and the EU. Indeed, U.S. policy now supports Moroccan proposals to retain the occupied territory under Moroccan sovereignty with local autonomy. Moreover, European companies happily help Morocco exploit Western Sahara's resources, and recent treaties with Europe even acknowledge and engage with Moroccan control.

Perhaps the most egregious examples are the bloody conquests of entire countries. It seems 1975 was the year for such things, with North Vietnam wiping South Vietnam off the map and Indonesia seizing East Timor. All nations now recognize Hanoi's sovereignty over all Vietnam. And despite a hostile Security Council resolution, the West quietly supported Indone-sia's Timor position for decades, before Jakarta's brutality made the issue difficult to ignore.

More recently, Armenia successfully

conquered parts of Azerbaijan in the 1990s, a move condemned by the EU but that seems unlikely to be reversed. And, of course, Russia snagged parts of Georgia just five years ago - and, after a series of Western threats, was punished with an Olympic Games.

When conquest fails, it is because of resistance from the target state — as with Argentina's bid for the Falklands, or Libva's for parts of Chad, and Iraq's attack on Iran. But international tsk-tsking does not do the trick Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, which led to an international effort to eject him, is not the paradigm but rather the exception.

Even in cases in which the conqueror's control remains in dispute, it does not poison international relations. Israel's 1967 Six-Day War successes are the exception that prove the rule. It is unimaginable that 45 years from now, the EU will be demanding that Russian exports be clearly marked to indicate they did not come from "occupied Ukrainian territory." Based on the current sanctions threats, it will not be doing this 45 days from now.

Indeed, the vigor with which the international community has maintained, and increased, its objections over Israel's presence in the West Bank may divert attention from other conquests. Putin knows this. Remarkably, Russia retained its status as a member of the "quartet" — with the U.S., EU and U.N. — seeking to broker Israeli territorial withdrawals even after it invaded Georgia.

To be sure, the post-Cold War world has seen an apparent reduction in territorial expansionism. But this is not because of any fundamental shift in international mores but for more mundane reasons. The wars of the 21st century have been wars of secession and dissolution. Separatism is a counterbalance to aggrandizement.

More important, territorial control has on the whole become less valuable for states. A much smaller percentage of today's value production comes from land and natural sources, so control of territory gets the occupier less. Moreover, improve ments in communications and transportation make it much easier to have a docile puppet state.

Today, conquest is less often a national interest. But when it is, legal barriers pose little restraint. Indeed, the West's continued willingness to effectively abide the major land grabs of Turkey and Morocco suggests that, except for unusual cases, the West will do little to stop such acts in the

Eugene Kontorovich is a professor at Northwestern University School of Law, special-izing in international and constitutional law. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER



A customer fills out a form under an ad for payday loans.

Report: Payday loans extend into troubles

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About half of all payday loans are made to people who extend the loans so many times they end up paying more in fees than the original amount they borrowed, a report by a federal watchdog has found.

The report released Tuesday by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau also shows that four of five payday loans are extended, or "rolled over," within 14 days. Additional fees are charged when loans are rolled over.

Payday loans, also known as short-term loans at high interest rates, usually for \$500 or less. They often are made to borrowers with weak credit or low incomes, and the storefront businesses often are located near military bases. The equivalent annual interest rates run to three digits.

rest rates run to three digits. The CFPB report was based on data from about 12 million payday loans in 30 states in 2011 and 2012. It also found that four of five payday borrowers either default on or extend a payday loan over the course of a year. Only 15 percent of borrowers repay all their payday debts on time without re-borrowing within 14 days, and 64 percent renew at least one loan one or more times, according to the report.

MARKET WATCH						
March 24, 2014						
Dow Jones	-26.08					
industria l s	16,276.69					
Nasdaq -	-50.40					
composite	4,226.39					
Standard & -	-9.08					
Poor's 500	1,857.44					
Russell	-15.50					
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EXCHANGE RATES

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	0.75

WEATHER OUTLOOK

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Akron, Ohio	28	13 22	PCldy	Chicago	37 39	16 19	PCIdy	Goodland Grand Junction	72 60	36 39	Cldy	Macon Madison	58 38	28 11	Cldv	Portland, Ore. Providence	40	43 27	Rain Snow	Sioux Falls South Bend	53 35	21 14	PCIdy
Albany, N.Y.	67	43	Clr	Cincinnati	27	14	PCIdy	Grand Rapids	29	11	Snow	Medford	57	42	Rain	Pueblo	73	30	PCldv	Spokane	49	37	Cldy
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Amarillo		37	Clr	Columbia, S.C.	57		Clr	Green Bay	32	4	Cir		75	59 50	PCldv	Rapid City	58	27 37	PCldy	Springfield, Mo.	55	24	PCIdy
Anchorage	38	19	CIF	Columbus, Ga.	57	32		Greensboro, N.C.	45	25	PCldv	Midland-Odessa			PCIdy	Reno	53		Cldy	Syracuse	26	18	
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Boston	20	26	Snow	El Paso	78	51	Cldv	Juneau Kansas Citv	60	25	Clr	North Platte	68	28	Clr PCldv		68	48	Clr	Wichita	59	35	Clr
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FACES



to sing in a new, liberated voice on her band's latest album because she's no longer hiding

Grace, 33, was born Tom Gabel and has performed as the lead singer of the Florida-based punk rock band Against Me! since 1997.

"This isn't the first time on an Against Me! record that I've written songs dealing with those feelings, but it's the first time that I think I'm able to be interpreted correctly or being able to be taken from the correct perspective," Grace said in a recent interview. "So there was a lack of frustration going into this record that's a really good feeling."

The band's sixth album, "Transgender

Dysphoria Blues," is a concept record about a transgender prostitute. The album marked a chart high for Against Me! when it reached No. 23 on the Billboard 200 in late January

my private life and in my public life."

Band member Atom Willard said Grace's honesty made the group stronger.

"Being passionate about what you're doing and what you're singing about and what you're playing is paramount to making the music good, in my mind," the drummer said. "So really to get to the best performance and best recording and the best songs ... we're very like-minded about it."

Grace, who is married and has a 4-year-old daughter, said deciding to transition wasn't

easy.
"I've dealt with gender dysphoria as early as
I could remember," Grace said. "The decision
to fully transition was something that took a long time to come to for sure. And it was something that I struggled with for a long time, but

Laura Jane Grace, formerly known as Tom Gabel, of the band Against Me!, photographed on Jan. 10 in New York. Grace, 33, publicly came out as transgender in 2012.

Brian Ach. Invision/AP

Johnson talks about big 'Hercules' reveal

By Jessica Herndon The Associated Press

It was hard for Dwayne Johnson to keep his "Hercules" look under wraps while filming the Brett Ratner-directed movie in Hungary last year. He did it for the greater good of the big reveal.

"As an actor, not showing my chiseled, extraordinary, handsome face was a tremendous sac-rifice for me," he joked on Monday before the premiere of the film's trailer at Las Vegas movie-theater convention CinemaCon.

"Paramount, MGM and I made a pact," he added. "We wanted to make a massive global and entertaining movie while doing all we could to never reveal the actual look of Hercules."

Slowly rolling out photos from the set of the film for the past few months via Twitter Johnson aimed to bring fans on his journey from training to diet and prep.

On Sunday, the 41-year-old actor finally unveiled his "Hercules" look in its entirety.

Via Twitter, he posted a photo revealing his full beard, shoulderlength brown locks and armor. In the caption accompanying the photo he wrote: "The world's first superhero. #TilDeathOrVictory.'

We're offered hints of the Greek hero's abilities in the trailer. In it. Hercules battles the multiheaded Lernaean hydra water monster. the behemoth Erymanthian boar and the massive Nemean lion. In



Dwavne Johnson, star of the upcoming film "Hercules introduces a clip from the film at CinemaCon on Monday night.

the following clip he classically dons the skinned lion as a head-

But, of course, Hercules is a multifaceted figure, so we're also treated to a brief shot of the hero absorbed in a tender lip-lock.

The teaser's conclusion takes us right back to the barbarousness, with the Greek hero fiercely yelling, "I am Hercules!"

At 6 feet 5 inches, the muscular Johnson said he trained harder for "Hercules," which hits the-aters July 25, than for any other role. "But in the end, it was all well worth it," he said.





Black Keys, Pixies announce new albums

From wire reports

Two beloved bands have announced new albums.

The Pixies said Monday that a new record, "Indie Cindy," would compile three recent EPs and singles into a long-player. The album, produced by longtime collaborator Gil Norton, will be released April 29 on the band's own label, Pixiesmusic, in a variety of formats.

The Black Keys have an LP of new tunes on the way.

"Turn Blue" is the eighth fulllength from the indie-blues duo, whose 2011 album "El Camino" went platinum and made them major stars. "Turn Blue" is scheduled for a May 13 release on Nonesuch Records

Other news

■ The Allman Brothers postponed the rest of their Beacon Theatre run this week due to Gregg Allman's bronchitis. New dates have not been announced.

■ Dave Brockie, who went by the stage name Oderus Urungus as the frontman for the heavy metal band GWAR, was found dead Sunday in his Richmond, Va., home at age 50. Detectives don't suspect foul play. The Grammy-nominated band is known for its comically grotesque costumes, stage antics and vulgar lyrics.

■ A judge in Los Angeles sen-tenced 1970s teen heartthrob David Cassidy to three months in rehab and five years of probation in a drunken driving case.

■ The star of the television show "Judge Joe Brown" has been arrested and charged with five counts of contempt of court in Tennessee, court officials in Memphis said Monday. Shelby County Juvenile Court officials said Brown, 66, was sentenced to five days in jail after causing an outburst Monday while representing a woman in a child sup-

■ Stacy Keibler and her husband, Jared Pobre, are expecting their first child together. Her publicist, Pearl Servat, confirmed the news Monday. People magazine was the first to report the pregnancy. Keibler, first famous for her work with professional wrestling, now works as a TV personality, actress and model.

'A uniquely American tragedy'

Two servicemembers depict the yin and yang of the Vietnam POW experience

Operation Homecoming

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In the early weeks of 1973, the infamous Hanoi Hilton was filling up with Americans. For once, the influx of prisoners was something to celebrate.

Negotiators from the United States and North Vietnam had just finished wrangling in Paris over an agreement to cease hostilities after nearly nine years of open fighting between the two

For the hundreds of U.S. prisoners held at the French colonial-era Hoa Lo prison, and those being gathered from elsewhere in the country, the end was near for a period of wartime captivity unprecedented in American history.

Among them were men who had en dured marathon torture sessions, long stretches of starvation and years of isolation in dank cells and even cages Now they could walk the grounds of the prison, talk to fellow POWs, even go to the jail kitchen for snacks fixed with food from a backlog of care packages their jailers had

recently stopped withholding

As more prisoners arrived, they noticed they were being grouped roughly in order of their capture dates, which they guessed would be the order in which they'd return home. Some were new arrivals shot down during the recent bombing, while others had been confined for most of the war.

In the eyes of most of them, no prisoner had endured longer than Navy pilot Everett Alvarez Jr. He had been shot down in August 1964 during a U.S. reprisal raid after the Gulf of Tonkin incident,

considered by many the de facto start of

the war.
"I had become something of a freakish legend," Alvarez would later write.
"After all, the period of my captivity spanned the entire length of this unde-

For those locked up with him, Alvarez was living proof it was possible to maintain military discipline and hold on to faith in someday making it home.

They knew he'd borne up during an

early period of isolation as the sole U.S. prisoner of war in North Vietnam. He had later weathered harsh interrogation and outright torture and, in a final blow, received some of the most hearthreaking news from home any prisoner could get. Yet he'd never given up.

I knew I could make one more day because this other guy was seven or more years ahead of me," said a fellow prisoner, Tom Hanton, an Air Force captain shot down in 1972 and today president of the Association of Vietnam War POWs. "There was always someone ahead of

As prisoners continued to gather, to the surprise of many, word soon spread that there was someone ahead of even

"Hey, tell Ev there's a guy here they brought up from South Vietnam who's been held longer than Alvarez," another prisoner said. "His name's Jim Thompson.'

Alvarez had read about Thompson being held in the South years earlier and wondered whether anyone could survive in such conditions. His reply, related by author Tom Philpott in Thompson's biography: "I'll be damned."

Different fates

By the time the United States withdrew from what was then the lengthiest war in its history, the

two men - Special Forces Capt. Floyd James Thompson and Alvarez - had become the longest-held American POWs.

They were two of the 662 military prisoners of war who came home alive from Vietaccording nam to Defense Department statistics compiled by the Association of Vietnam War POWs. All have their own stories and faced unique challenges. But in Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force many ways the soldier Thompson and the sailor Alva-

POW Airman 1st Class Bill Robinson is guarded by a North Vietnamese soldier guardeu by a redian victioninese south after his capture on Sept. 20, 1965. rez represent two extremes - the yin and yang - of the Vietnam POW

experience. Thompson, captured in South Vietnam 50 years ago today, spent much of his nearly nine-year ordeal in remote jungle prison

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prisoners, Thompson's name was never engraved on one. the first American shot different in the Navy down over North Vietnam a few months later, his face was

and Air Force. Names like James Stockdale and Lance Sijan still reverberate in the histories

It was

became widely and incorrectly regarded as the longest-held prisoner of the Viet-Thompson's comparative anonym-

ity continued in the post-war years, and it galled him. It can be traced to at least two factors. First, his wife, Alyce, had developed a relationship with another man in the year after her husband's capture, and in an effort to spare embarrassment to herself and her children she had demanded the Army withhold details about Thompson's captivity.

Second, many point to widespread bias within

the Army in the 1960s that caused POWs to be held in low regard, almost as if they had failed by

being captured. In similar fashion.

Purple Heart decorations in Vietnam were sometimes disdainfully dubbed 'combat inefficiency badges" for troops who, instead of shooting the enemy, ended up injured themselves.

The family and admirers of another Army captive in South Vietnam — Capt. Humbert "Rocky" Versace, who fiercely opposed his Viet Cong captors for two years until they finally killed him in - worked for decades before he posthumously received the Medal of Honor in 2002.

"I just don't believe the Army at that time was willing to give the Medal of Honor to someone who was a prisoner of war," Stephen Versace, Rocky's brother, told Stars and Stripes. "In their minds, heroes were not people who were captured.'

While supporters around the country were donning metal POW bracelets to help keep attention focused on the fate of U.S.

of the services. Stockdale was a Navy commander (promoted to captain in captivity) who had helped set up a secret command system in prison and almost killed himself to conceal it. Sijan,

an Air Force cantain, was so bent on escape and resistance that he

was murdered by his angry captors. Each was awarded the Medal of Honor soon after the war. Alvarez, who re-

ceived the Silver Star and other medals for his time in captivity, often tried to correct the record about who was the longest-held POW in the decades after the war. For him — sunny and gregarious in his outlook once home it was a time of continual achievement.

He raised a family, succeeded in careers in government and private business and moved in social circles that included U.S. presidents.

Thompson, also a Silver Star recipient, struggled to shake the horror of im-

prisonment. His Vietnam torment gave way to tragedy at home that was almost mythical in its depth and completeness. He battled alcoholism, struggled in his Army career, watched the ongoing destruction of his family, became disabled and suffered deep depression.

MAI NAM, PIONEER NEWSPAPER/AP

An American F-105 warplane is shot

down and the pilot ejects and opens

his parachute in this photo taken by

North Vietnamese photographer Mai

Nam in September 1966 near Vinh

Phuc, north of Hanoi.

"He was kind of our version of Job," said Orson Swindle III, a Marine aviator and former POW confined for more than six years, "Just endless suffering,



Alvarez wasn't the only one at the Hanoi Hilton in January 1973 for whom Thompson's arrival was a surprise. Army helicopter pilot Michael O'Connor had encountered Thompson in early 1968 at a prison camp called Bao Cao. At the time, he hadn't seemed a candidate for long-term survival.

Thompson, then four years into his captivity, had finished a forced march up the Ho Chi Minh trail into North Vietnam several months earlier. His welcome to the country consisted of months shackled in a small cage for refusing to celebrate North Vietnam's Independence Day

Everything he'd survived was written on his body as he stared out of a cell door at the camp, the first place he'd been held with other Americans since his capture. When the freshly captured O'Connor first saw him, he took Thompson for an emaciated corpse propped up by guards as a ghoulish joke - until he saw him move.

SEE PAGE 17



STORY BY CHRIS CARROLL Stars and Stripes

For more on the Vietnam War. go to stripes.com/vietnam50

FROM PAGE 16

"He looked like something out of Auschwitz," O'Connor told Philpott in "Glory Denied," a 2001 biography of Thompson. After hearing half an hour of scratching through a cell wall. O'Connor asked Thompson what he was doing.

"Standing up" was the stoic reply. His devastated condition - the result of years of starvation, torture and repeated bouts of malaria - terrified other new POWs. For O'Connor, it showed what a survivor determined to see home again was capable of enduring.

"I don't know anyone else who could have



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

POWs in South Vietnam, held by Viet Cong guerrillas, were typically held in cages or huts or were fully exposed to the steaming jungle weather and insects.

lived through the stuff he did," said O'Connor, who soon lost track of Thompson as the North Vietnamese shuffled prisoners between camps.

Thompson had come into the Army 12 years before that meeting, in 1956, as an unenthusiastic peacetime draftee but he quickly acclimated to Army life.

Though the former grocery clerk lacked a college education, he had a sharp mind and was considered a promising enough soldier to attend officer candidate school and receive a commission. Fitness reports tracked down by Philpott paint a picture of a cocky, selfassured officer sometimes given to making snap decisions he'd pay for later.

In 1961, he was pulled into the Special Forces, which was rapidly expanding to meet the demands of an advisory mission to help South Vietnamese troops hold off a growing communist insurgency.

He and his wife, Alyce, had three children and a fourth on the way when Thompson — by then a captain — de-ploved to South Vietnam in December 1963. There, he commanded a Special Forces unit in a remote camp in Quang Tri province in north central Vietnam, near the location of the later battles of Khe Sanh

Shootdowns

On March 26, 1964, Thompson was on an observation mission in a small plane flown by Air Force Captain Richard L. Whitesides. Wanting a better look and undeterred by the danger, Thompson told Whitesides to fly lower than the 1,500-foot altitude allowed by regulation. As the plane swooped down, Vietcong insurgents opened up with small-arms fire and shot it out of the sky

When Thompson regained consciousness and found himself a prisoner of local mountain tribesmen drafted into

service by the Viet Cong. Whitesides was gone. He would later be classified as killed in action.

Thompson, suffering from a spinal fracture as well as smaller injuries, was temporarily crippled by the crash. Luckily, he was also being treated humanely by the highlanders.

"I was taken from village to village in the weeks following my capture," he told the Army in debriefings after returning home. "They made no attempt to interrogate me or treat me like a prisoner. I couldn't walk, so they weren't worried about an

escape. They were very solicitous of my welfare."

As he regained some mobility, mindful of his obligation to "make every effort to escape" under the military Code of Conduct, he soon began trying to slip away from camp. Each time, he stumbled across a guard and pretended he was looking for a place to urinate to avoid punishment.

Unlike Thompson, Alvarez was being interrogated communist North Vietnamese officials hours after fishermen pulled him out of

the Gulf of Tonkin. He'd taken off earlier that day, Aug. 5, 1964, as part of a first U.S. attack on North Vietnamese targets and been shot down soon after he'd emptied his A-4C's 20mm cannon into a warship's bridge.

Within days, he became the first American POW to move into Hoa Lo Prison, well before it was dubbed, with pitch-black POW humor, the Hanoi Hilton. Although frequently shackled and living in revolting, rat-infested conditions, he gave his interrogators only the required name, rank, service number and date of birth. Further questions he

met with stony silence.

Neither his North Vietnamese jailers nor the Viet Cong guerillas holding Thompson intended to allow their American captives to simply live out the war in confinement. Both men, they calculated, could be made into useful pawns in the larger Vietnamese communist cause. The administration of President Richard Nixon, many believed, would later use the plight of the POWs to attack North Vietnamese conduct on the international stage while seeking to shore up support for ongoing military actions.

Forced testimony

Alvarez was the first U.S. prisoner of war taken in North Vietnam, while Thompson was the 14th U.S. servicemember captured in the South. It wouldn't be long before they were followed by many more.

In total, 734 U.S. servicemembers are known to have become POWs during the Vietnam War, and 662 survived the war. as did 138 civilian POWs. An additional 1,643 U.S. troops remain unaccounted

By the end of the conflict, their sheer numbers made U.S. POWs natural bargaining chips for the North Vietnamese. Early on, however, when Thompson and

Alvarez were first imprisoned, the Vietnamese communists were more interested in their potential value as propaganda mouthpieces.

From Thompson, his captors were particularly desperate for public testimony that the Vietnamese people want-ed the United States out of the country. They also wanted a statement from him that he was enjoying great hospitality as a prisoner, and they were willing to do almost anything to him to get it.

By July 1964, Thompson had regained his ability to walk freely, but indoctrination and interrogation were intensifying. His captors had begun reducing his food rations to weaken his will to resist and transferred him to a newly built, heavily guarded camp where he was the sole prisoner.

Suffering from malaria and fearing his chance to escape would ebb as he grew weaker. Thompson fled the camp one morning when his guards thought he was asleep. He struggled northward through the jungle, hoping the Viet Cong would assume he was heading south. He was recaptured at dusk by local tribesmen who caught him as he crossed a river.

"It was all downhill from that night on," he said in a post-captivity debriefing.

he When was brought back to camp, the commander beat unconscious him with a stick. VC political officers subjected him to longer, harsher interrogations Beatings were commonplace, and his captors began starving him in earnest.

It continued for weeks. Finally, in mid-August, drifting in and out of consciousness.

Thompson copied a statement they had written for him and then read it into

a microphone, simply to end the torment. When broadcast months later in the United States, the tape was the first evidence for the U.S. government and his family he was still

He was being treated very well, he had said Afterward he sank into depression over what he'd done.

Torture and confession

Alvarez's jailors became serious about extracting a statement from him two years into his captivity. By 1966, there were more U.S. pilots being held at the Hanoi Hilton. As the number of guards needed to corral the Americans grew, so did the level of brutality.

Failure to bow to guards or a moment of defiance could result in a savage, disabling beating. Prisoners began to warn others - using the simple tap code that had become their primary means of communication - about a diabolical new method of abuse.

Interrogators were using ropes and handcuffs to bind prisoners into stretched, distorted positions, cutting off circulation in their limbs and injuring joints. Once bent into the unnatural poses, the Americans could be left that way for agonizing hours until they agreed to confess to a litany of crimes against humanity and the Vietnamese people.

The worst time was at night, when you heard their keys rattling," Alvarez said in an interview. "You knew they were coming to take someone, and you prayed it wasn't going to be you. Then you prayed for the poor guy they took,' whose screams often echoed through the night

They came for Alvarez the morning of Aug. 9, 1966, and told him to write his confession. Alvarez refused. He had listened as some of his fellow prisoners held out through marathon torture sessions. They might scream their lungs out in pain, yet they resisted as long as they could. He knew it was his turn to be tested

Soon he found himself bound with his elbows pulled unnaturally close together behind his back by a pair of handcuffs.

"It felt like a hacksaw had stuck deep in my flesh," Alvarez later explained. 'The cuffs seemed to cut through to the bone. My head was pushed far forward and all I could do was yell and scream to ride with the



SAL VEDER/AP

Released prisoner of war Lt. Col. Robert L. Stirm is rereased prisoner or war to con numer a sum is greeted by his family at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif., as he returns home from Vietnam on March 17, 1973. In the lead is Stirm's daughter Lori, 15; followed by son Robert, 14; daughter Cynthia, 11; wife Loretta; and son Roger, 12.

pain. They left me alone for quarter-hour spells and then returned, yanking my arms up and squeezing the cuffs tighter yet."

After a few hours, he could take no more. He wrote his confession with a sense of shame.

"I had vowed to die rather than confess lies yet when the time came I chose not to die," he said.

"I had been tested and found wanting. I hollered for them to save my skin and this was the price I had agreed to pay. I capitulated during a single morning of torture."

Indeed, Alvarez - as Thompson had done after a regimen of beatings and starvation - had technically violated the Code of the U.S. Fighting Force by giving more than basic identifying information.

It would be hard to find a POW who would condemn either for it, however. The reality of being twisted with ropes, or strung up by the thumbs, or subjected to electric shock quickly erases illusions of invincibility, POWs say. Some can joke about it now.

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"They weren't going to get anything out of me. I mean, I was Steve McQueen in 'The Great Escape' — nothing," said Paul Galanti, a former Navy POW who's now commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. "That lasted about an hour."

If a prisoner was tough enough not to break under torture, that probably meant he would die, several former POWs said.

"We were all on the Code of Conduct, you know- name rank serial number date of birth," said Mike McGrath, a Navy lieutenant and A-4 pilot shot down in 1967. "I contend everybody went be-

yond that." Ranking officers among the prisoners, who like Stockdale endured some of the harshest torture of all, established guidelines that gave POWs latitude to decide how much agony they could take before signing a confession or making a statement. The general ethos was one of compassion - calling for prisoners to do their best to resist torture, but if they weakened in one session, to "bounce back" and be stronger next time.

The key, McGrath and others said, was to find ways to deflect interrogators without defying them. That meant inventing names of fictional squadron mates, providing false information about shins and planes or fabricating details about life in America.

One prisoner, for instance, told his interrogator about his family's electric banana peeler. A fellow POW who heard about the story later bragged that his family was so well off that even the bedrooms in his house had banana peelers.

Most of the interrogators weren't very savvv.

"You'd try to play cat and mouse with them, you'd try to tell them the minimum you could just to get out of there," McGrath said.

Sometimes nothing worked.

'Occasionally, they'd put me on my knees for three days, and my knees turned into flat tires." McGrath said.

More than four decades after their release, orthopedic problems and nerve damage from torture are still common problems among former Vietnam POWS

Family matters

On Sept. 2, 1969, North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh died at age 79 — a turning point for the prisoners. Within weeks, at prison camps across North Vietnam, torture and abuse died down. As Stockdale said, Ho's death meant "a lot less brutality, and larger bowls of rice?

In a literal sense, the POWs' existence became brighter.

They came around and knocked the bricks out of the windows, which had been blocked up, and gave us some ventilation," recalled Ken Cordier, an Air

Force captain and F-4 nilot shot down in 1966.

As life grew more bearable for the prisoners, Alvarez increasingly worried about what was happening at home. He had noticed a growing distance unhappiness in the letters sent by his wife, Tangee, whom he'd married just three



he wrote to his mother, desperately asking her to level with him about Tangee.

On Christmas Day 1971, Alvarez was handed a reply from his mother with the words that devastated him: "Tangee has decided not to wait."

The lonely young woman had gone to Mexico for a divorce and had a new man in her life - a fact that Alvarez's family had been hiding from him.

Alvarez reeled from the pain of the blow, and retreated from other POWs as he replayed the details of his short life with his wife again and again in his mind. He leaned heavily on prayer and his Christian faith to help him cope.

His despair didn't survive long

In April 1972, he was pacing alone outside when he looked up at the first blue sky he'd noticed since receiving the news. He realized that whenever he returned to the United States, he'd be ready to move on with his life. (Alvarez would remarry within months of his release.)

"I stood revitalized," he later wrote. "It did not hurt to think about Tangee anymore. She was finally out of my system. I was free of her ghost. I was going to live

Thompson, too, had fretted for years over the family left behind. The youngest of his four children, a son he had never seen, was born the day after he went missing in action. The shock had sent Alyce, his wife, into labor.

For Thompson, his dreams of return-ing home to his family had sustained him in the darkest periods of captivity. At Bao Cao, where he'd been mistaken for a corpse, he told Mike O'Connor that what bothered him more than anything was separation from them.

Thoughts of home likely played a factor in his determination to rebuild his strength once the overt torture and starvation regimen ended with Ho's death. A civilian prisoner, Lew Meyer, made rehabbing the sickly Green Beret his mission. The two were soon jogging laps around their cell.

As his strength grew, the old, self-assured Thompson began to re-emerge. He sought to establish leadership in various prisons where he was held, under the assumption he had been promoted on the normal schedule and was likely the ranking officer. (In fact, the Army had several times inexplicably deferred Thompson's promotions while in captivity.)

In September 1971, a reinvigorated Thompson, Meyer and another prisoner broke out of their prison camp south of Hanoi, nicknamed "Rockpile, in Thompson's last of several escape attempts. They were quickly captured amid a hail of bullets.

When they brought were into the back prison, however, no torture and no harsh punishments awaited them. For the Ameri-POWs. can times had truly changed.

Pressure in the United States to end the war was growing, and the need to bring home the POWs had become one of the major concerns. Late in 1972, the long-stalled peace talks in Paris picked up momentum, hurried along by Operation Linebacker II, a devastating U.S. bombing campaign in December.

On Feb. 12, 1973, a U.S. Air Force C-141 transport plane landed in Hanoi to carry out the first of dozens of groups of prisoners who would leave in the following two months. Alvarez was on that first flight out.

Unhappy return

Although no one had endured a longer captivity, Thompson had to wait another month for release, with some speculating the North Vietnamese wanted more time to fatten him up for public relations reasons.

He finally left Hanoi on March 16, less than two weeks shy of nine years in captivity.

The blows from fate began to rain down on him immediately.

The day he returned. Thompson, who had long dreamed of his reunion with his wife and children, learned from Alyce that years earlier she had moved the family to Massachusetts to live with an Army sergeant she had begun seeing a few months after her husband's disappearance.

She was driven, she said, by a loneliness exacerbated by a lack of support from other officers' wives at Fort Bragg, N.C., and by a simple need for help raising four children.

It would soon become clear that Alyce's betrayal went even deeper. She was the one who forbade the Army from publicizing his captivity, cutting him off from much of the honor his lengthy imprisonment had earned him. For years, the Pentagon had listed Alvarez's name at the top of the list of longest-held POWs, although it also acknowledged there was another unnamed prisoner held even longer.

In 1971, while aware that he was likely alive, the Army prepared a memo obtained by Philpott that revealed Alvce was attempting to have Thompson declared dead so she could move on with her life.

"He went through hell, but I went through hell too," she later said. "There are certain things I did I'm not proud of. But I had to do them, for my children, for my own sanity.

Still. Alvce told Thompson on the day of his return that she was willing to leave the sergeant to attempt to rebuild the

After nearly a decade of being put through hell on earth, Thompson took the news calmly and agreed.

Descent

Thompson, who according to Alyce had been a heavy drinker before his capture, began to rely more and more on the bottle now that he had his freedom. Their marriage, cold and awkward since Thompson's return, exploded one night in 1974 when Alyce accused him of homosexuality - she'd once walked in on him embracing another man, she told Philpott - and he began punching her in front of their children.

They soon divorced, and Thompson. who remained on active duty in the Army, fell further into depression and alcoholism. He fell out of touch with the children, who had believed him dead throughout his captivity.

He complained of horrific nightmares. In one, he was a skeleton walking down a trail in Vietnam, and any food he ate dropped out between his ribs.

In 1977, Thompson attempted suicide with a combination of drugs and alcohol. He lived through the attempt, and through sheer determination and the help of Alcoholics Anonymous, friends said, he began to turn his life around in the following years.

In 1981, he suffered a heart attack, quickly followed by a debilitating stroke that left him in a coma for months and struggling with serious disabilities for the rest of his life. He was medically retired from the military in 1982 at the rank of colonel

It wasn't the final blow.

In 1990, Jim Thompson Jr., the estranged son born the day after he was captured, was charged with killing a man he believed was having an affair with his wife. He was convicted of second-degree murder.

In an interview with The New York Times, not long before his death at 69 in 2002. Thompson looked back on his life with deep dissatisfaction and voiced his pain in terms almost biblical in their directness

"I'm quite bitter," he said, his ability to communicate hampered by the stroke. The depression and so forth. I can't describe if - the agony. All my children are foreign to me. Then depression hits me. Not now, but for a long period."

But to a man whose lot in life was to endure, an admission of intolerable pain and an admission of defeat are two different things.

Survivors

As Thompson sank and sank, he watched Alvarez ascend in public life as an administrator at the Peace Corps, deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration, with seats on numerous boards of directors and as an entrepreneur who started several successful businesses.

Alvarez, 76, still goes daily to the government IT services firm. Alvarez and Associates, which he operates in suburban Washington, D.C. He speaks reluctantly of Thompson's ordeal, and when he does so, like the other former POWs, he speaks in hushed tones.

Although he won't go on the record about his relationship with the man he unintentionally overshadowed, other POWs say that over the years, Alvarez tried to use his influence to help Thompson conquer his problems and settle into his post-captivity life.

It would never come easy for Thompson, who to the end found his main satisfaction in what he had endured as a survivor of the longest and perhaps the most brutal POW experience of any American in the Vietnam War.

"He absolutely celebrated it, and it made his life worth living in those final years," said Philpott, who found Thompson living in isolation in Florida. Outside his condominium, he had a POW flag flying and a plaque on display to ensure everyone knew what he'd been through.

"It's a uniquely American tragedy," Philpott said. "In the end, everything had been taken from him, except his will to survive."

carroll.chris@stripes.com Twitter: @ChrisCarroll

"I had vowed to die rather than confess lies yet when the time came I chose not to die. I had been tested and found wanting. I hollered for them to save my skin and this was the price I had agreed to pay. I capitulated during a single morning of torture."

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ACROSS

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27 Take to court

- 34 Flower
- 37 Conk out
- 39 Flavor enhancer
- 42 "Strange as it may seem ..."
- 44 John Paul II, born

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- 49 She loved Narcissus
- 50 Put an end to
- 53 Debtor's letters

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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VUXP XZTSP'R DATSZXAW.

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Chevrolet. Camario. 1998.
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Chevrolet, Camero, 1989 \$11000.00 \$50 TPI motor, has \$11000.00 \$50 TPI motor, has \$1000.00 miles \$ince low-end rebuild Transmission is a \$1.56 from a 95 Z28, shifts great! T-56 from a 95 228, shifts great The rear end is from a 2000 Trans am with 4.10 gears. Full exhaust work from the headers back with 3 inch cutout, 2 summers ago I did an exterior decal and stripped and polished, new windshield, all new weatherstipping, 12" notors all around, ICST Car brake set-up) around, ICST Car brake set-up) gauges. Deve with Junior Sauces. gauges, pwr-016091505042 'n

Chevrolet, Camaro, 2011 \$21500.00 Black Camaro with Green Stripes, 425 HP, brand wheels, great condition, was purchased in U.S. Must due to move. jkountz16@h Ci

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Ci Chrysler, \$16500.00 200 Limited, 3.6 l. 6 imited, 2011 I, 6 speed ssion, Color: coat, black lealer mainseamer seats, dealer maintained, low mileage, all weather tires w rims, extra set of winter tires with rims included, in very good condition. 0171-76995 Ti mothylane@live.com

Chrysler, Crossfire Limited Coupe, 2005 \$8500.00 This is a beautiful gray metallic limited edition coupe. It has pwindows, power steering, power sheering, power steering, pow Di

Chryster, Dodge, Cang Cang, C

Ci. Chrysler, Town and Country, 2005, 7 seats power sliding doors, hatch, mirrors, windows, front seats leather interior back seats are stow and go 83, 765 miles at 100 august 2013 automatic available how

Dodge, Caliber, 2011 \$7500.00 Good reliable car. Bought new from military car sales back June of 2011. Winter tires included. PCSing. Need to sale. Ethan.king@netZero.net

Euman.xing/@netZero.net

Dodge, Grand Caravan ES,
2001 \$3900.00 Great family
vehicle. Selling due to convey
post, and Leather, Heated Seats,
Flower estable
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Dodge, Journey RT AWD, 2009 \$13000.00 Bought new in October 2009 from AAFES car October 2009 from AAFES car sales. Has every option available for this vehicle for the year. Vehicle is does to immaculate for this vehicle for the year. Vehicle is does to immaculate Everything works and the car will be dealer serviced again with a 2 year inspection for the new buyer. It has been with us for 5 years and selling only because of the family getting. pecause of the family getting smaller with children going off to college and PCS. 01522341454 somaratna@iunn.com

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Fist 5 speed, 500, 2011 S1500,00,00 Fin., Red S36W(B5p3), Wet Oxioe seat extra summer tires. Sun roof, CD player, air conditioning, Full service and warranty records, European specs. Hate to sell but heading back to states. It has been 3 great car. +49 160 9490e450 Ci)

Fiat, Doblo, 2004 \$3600.00 (VAN) 172,000KM, Blue Metalic. 1 Set of Summer and Winter Tires, AC, Central Lock, Electric

Ford, Fusion Sport, 2010 \$1600.00 Excellent condition. Sport Blue, 3.51 Ve. Completely March with 10,000 mile Ford warranty, brand new high per-formance summer tires on Oz merch with 10,000 mile Ford warranty, brand new high per-formance summer tires on Oz merch with 10,000 mile Ford warranty, brand new high per-formance summer tires on Oz merch warrant warrant warrant warrant sion, leather, Sync, not smoking lirst and only owner, dealer misritalized. well cared for alone. Ozen merch warrant warrant warrant warrant warrant alone. Ozen merch warrant
ahoc.com
Ford, Ranger, 2011 \$20500.00
Ford Ranger XLT. SuperCab
AVA. U.S Spec, Black, 40 Lv-6,
5-speed manual, Power Steer,
40 September 1, 10
œ Honda, Odyssey, 2006 \$6000.00 Comfortable, reliable, automatic sliding doors, heated seats, room for 8 plus LOTS of space in the back, includes set of winter tires. Perfect family car for your time in Europe. 015140018534 wellmankeri@y ahoo.com

Jeep, Grand Cherokee Limited, 2007 \$17900.00 Steel blue, gray leather, sun root, heated priver seats, front and rear fog lights. All maintenance completed by Jeep paperwork available. Excellent _ar. Negotiable. 01727105195

Ci

Jeep Grand Cherokee, SUV, 2012 \$29200.00 Economical 3.6LI ENG, Black with BLK leather, 4X4, sunroof, PWR DRs INs, Touch Radio w ith CD HDDRV & BT, still under factory warrantee. 01743229616 Mercedes Elegance 320CLK convertible 2001, German specs- one owner- loaded-excellent condition-garage kept-serviced by Mercedes-\$12,500 or best offer-original cost 45k-four summer and seats, parktronic and more-5000 miles 2021/380681

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Retiring, Hohenfels Area. Seri-ous Enquiries only please! 015111545427 liamolongbow@ re.

Nissan, Sentra, 2012 \$13000.00 in excellent condi-tion, Only 31K original miles and original owner. Altomatic trans-mission, linted windows, cruise control, GPS navigation, AF FM CD MP3 player, Bluetooth comcontrol, "GPS navigation, Ar Fun CD MP3 player, Blueboth com-patible, Air Conditioner. This car looks great and runs good. Regular maintenance has been present the present the present the present the present the present the see to appreciate. 015238737776 fredprintx@hot mail.com

r a Opel, Zafira, 2005 \$8500.00 2005 Opel Zafira 2.2 liter direct injection. Automatic, AC, 7 seats, top box included, 1 year old summer and winter tires with rims. German specs 015164197159 ď

Pontiac, Sport Coupe SE, 1985 \$6000,00 All new brakes, clutch, and electrical (distributor, alter-nator, headlights and motor, computer). 01712078784 kyoungcov@anl.com Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Steel blue, gray leather, sun roof, heated power seats, front and rear fog lights. All maintenance completed by Jeep paperwork available. Excellent car, Negoliable.email: tom.lorenzin: @ fio1mail.com, cell 01727105195

Subaru. Legacy 1992 \$1500.00 Up for sale today is a beautiful 1992 Subaru Legacy for \$1500 that runs like a charm and has just past inspection. This car flas electric windows, seat warmers, and rice speak-ers. A plus to buying this car row is first you will not have to bring it back to inspection for a prest of the property of the pro-

pring it back to inspection for a year as long as you buy it in the next 20 days. Enjoy owendarrow@gmail.com Toyota, Tacoma, 2011 \$26000.00 Fuel Economy: City

16 omb 18 MPG Max Seating: 1 Doors: 4 Engine: V6, 4.0 Lite Drivetrain: 4WD Transmission

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Volvo, \$60 T5, 2012 \$22000.00 US spec. a very clean car, full loadet sunroof leather mirrow camera Graf area pics please c a r 1 2 3 @ 1 - o n l i n è . d e 0 1 7 2 8 6 1 6 5 0 5 , sreinhold@freenet.de

VOLVO XC70 AWD 2007 \$15000.00 2007 Crosscountry AWD Automatic millage 87K leather, pwr heated front seats.AC, DVD wireless head-phones, park assist, tow pack-phones, park assist, tow pack-seation of the company of the com

VOLVO, XC70 AWD, \$15000.00 Crosscountry Autoratic milage 87K leather, pur heated front seats.AC, DVD with wireless headphones, park leather, with wireless headphones, park leather, wireless headphones, park leather, wireless headphones, park leather wireless headphones headphon

Volvo, XC70 (US specification), 2007 \$14500.00 For Sale by original owner 5 cylinder turbo-injection, standard fuel (not diesel) 208 HP Lots of extrast Meticulous maintenance record No lien, buyer pays all applica-ble taxes, title, and licehsing lees, Sold as is. Please contact.

VW, Golf GTI, 2012 \$19900.00 very clean car with sunroof 4 doors US spec Graf area pics. at car123@t-online.de 0 1 7 2 8 6 1 6 5 0 5 , sreinhold@freenet.de

WW Polo 2000 \$2000.00
WWPolo, 14 MPI, blue-met. 04
w000, 80PS, AC, ABS, 5-dr.
new clutch in New A Summer, of the New Council of

Autos for Sale 144

Fiat, 500, 2011 \$9500.00 Metal-lic red Fiat, air conditioning, CD ac red riat, air conditioning, CD player, Bluetooth, USB, custom seaf covers,sun roof panel. Great car, we have all service and warranty records. Heading back to States or we would not be selling to still the selling.Looking for ne.Janet Ramstein 16094908450

Motorcycles

BMW, F650GS, 2012 \$8500.00 798cc. Heated grips, comp, luggage, compft seat, center stand, cruise control, Warranty, clean, Inc extras. e-mail: for pics and details \$8500 OBO jbean114@gmail.com

BMW, R65, 1981 \$2500.00 US specs, Blue, Boxer motor, elec-tronic ignition, saddlebags +2 seats, 16438 miles; clean and excellent condition, hasenbuhle excellent condit rh@yahoo.com

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Ultra (FLTHU), 2012 \$2000.00
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Harley Davidson, VRSCB. 2005 \$11000.00 Custom VROD

Honda, Nighthawk S 700 CB700SC, 1984 \$2650.00 US Spec One of the best bikes ever built. This is a rare 30 year old classic in great condition. Nearly impossible to find in Europe. Shaft driven and hydraulically artisted whose make this Night. smoothast to find in Europe's Shaft driven and hydraulically adjusted valves make this Night-half was smoothast to the smoothast the sm

Honda, VTX 1300C, 2007 \$5000.00 in very good condition. It has 6,500 miles, 200 rear tire, Cobra drag pipes with remova-ble baffles, aftermarket mirrors, Kuryakyn cold air intake, custom made saddle. Any other ques-tions, please feel free to ask. 01626946773 Ci

Suzuki, DL1000 V-Strom, 2002 \$3950.00,German spec. 36K (23,000 miles) Complète service records. New Metzeler tires. Givi rack and large side cases. nd large side cases, garaged, \$3,950 Ans-locek@vahoo.com Ó

Suzuki, GSXR1000, 2007
\$550.00 UIS Spees; great condition; comes with form of uniform comes with the u

Furniture

Suzuki, Hayabusa, 2011 \$10498.00 A red, black and chrome American spec Busa with only 3,600 miles. NADA (average) retail \$12.674. Only mods are incredible sounding dual Yoshimura 011 49 9652 420 995 Ismonte.r.chatman.mil @ mail.mil Yamaha, FZB, 2011 \$6500.00 StreetFighter Brand New lires Power Commander Two Broth-ers Exhaust Auto Tuner HID Projector Headlight with ring Modded Airbox Synthetic Oil Kân filler US Spec. 314 521-2172 nejelskij@yahoo.com

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Mari Matsumoto SSPcirculation@stripes.com +81(3) 6385.3171 DSN 315.229.3171

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Trucks 174

Chrysler, Town & Country Touring Plus, 2010 \$16500.00 Tourise "Just 2010 \$1650.00 Outsidering touring van just in time for Spring Break Fits 7 passengers pills luggage with passengers pills luggage with year of the passengers pills luggage with year of the passengers pills luggage with year of the passengers pills pi

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chair - \$20 Goldster 198Åb Television - \$20 AVOL DVD Player - \$15 3 speed Standing floor fans - \$25 3 speed Desk fan - \$15 1600 Watt Transformer er - \$35 750 Watt Transformer -\$25 2 x 300 Watt Transformer -\$20 ach 75 Watt Transformer -\$20 sch 75 Watt Transformer -\$20 sch 75 Watt Transformer -\$15 Krups Power XII6 blender -\$40 regine.ms@hotmail.com Dodge, Grand Caravan, 2001 S380D.00 2001 Bodge Grand Caravan, 120K miles, power steering, power brakes, power steering, power brakes, power with the control of the control with the control of the control with the control of the control steep and the control steep and the control of the steep and the steep a Person to Person

Books 250

permitted. You must be 18 years of age or older to Find the Magic Formula in Bavrisia, Germany \$3.59 Leam Bowrisia, Germany \$3.59 Leam He Calliura Bouris and the Calliura Bouris place a free person to person advertisement Real Estate Moving to Barksdale Air Force base Louisiana? \$34750.00 For sale by owner 4 3 3 swimming pool, 2561 sql. Fully range, granile countertops, corner lot in family friendly subdivision, 15 minutes from base, best school district in the area. Home warranty and closing costs offered. No money fown with a confidence of the countertops of the condition
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Roundup

Canadiens win shootout, stop Bruins' streak at 12

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BOSTON - Alex Galchenvuk scored the only shootout goal as the Montreal Canadiens stopped the Boston Bruins' 12-game winning streak with a 2-1 victory Monday.

The Bruins fell one game short of their longest winning streak since 1970-71 and two shy of the club record set in 1929-30. But their one point from the shootout loss moved them ahead of Western Conference-leading St. Louis for the most in the NHL with

Boston tied it at 1 with just two seconds left on its sixth power play of the game. Dougie Hamilton's slap shot from the center of the blue line deflected off Patrice Bergeron and past goalie Peter Budaj with 5:26 left in the third period. It was Bergeron's 23rd goal of the season.

Montreal grabbed the lead on Alexei Emelin's third goal of the season at 6:39 of the first. Emelin's shot from the blue line deflected off Bruins forward Chris Kelly about 30 feet from the net and rose over the glove of goalie Tuukka Rask.

The win moved Montreal ahead of Tampa Bay and into third place in the Eastern Conference.

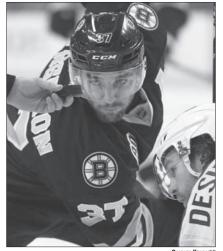
Flames 2, Sharks 1 (SO): San Jose clinched a playoff spot by getting a point in a shootout loss to host Calgary.
Mike Cammalleri scored the

only goal in the shootout for Calgary.

Cammalleri moved in from the right wing and went short side on Alex Stalock, setting off a roar from the Saddledome crowd.

Rangers 4, Coyotes 3 (OT): Rvan McDonagh scored off a rebound of Dan Girardi's shot 1:56 into overtime, completing host New York's surprising rally.

McDonagh put the puck past backup goalie Thomas Greiss, who relieved injured starter Mike Smith in the third period and then gave up the tying and winning



Boston center Patrice Bergeron eyes the puck on a face-off with Montreal center David Desharnais during the second period of Monday's game in Boston. Montreal won 2-1 in shootout.

goals. Girardi got the Rangers even with 3:28 left in regulation when he tipped in a drive by his

defense partner McDonagh. Kings 3, Flyers 2: Dwight King scored a tiebreaking goal midway through the third period, leading

visiting Los Angeles to the win. Jeff Carter and Justin Williams scored in the second for the Kings, who won their third straight and 11th in 14 games while remaining in third place in

the Pacific Division. Senators 4, Lightning 3 (SO): Jason Spezza scored in regulation and had the only goal in a shootout helping visiting Ottawa end a six-game losing streak.

Erik Karlsson had a goal and two assists for the Senators. Karlsson, the top-scoring defenseman in the NHL with 68 points, opened the scoring 3:57 into the game with his career-high 20th

Stars 2, Jets 1: Ray Whitney and Tyler Seguin scored powerplay goals as host Dallas held off

The victory allowed Dallas to move within a point of the Phoenix Coyotes for the Western Conference's final playoff spot.

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Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

x-Boston d-Pittsburgh Tampa Bay N.Y. Rangers Montreal Philadelphia Detroit Toronto	GP 72 71 72 73 73 71 71 71 73	W 49 46 39 40 40 38 33 36	17 20 24 29 26 26 24 29	0T 6 5 9 4 7 7 14 8	Pts GF GA 104 230 153 97 222 173 87 214 193 84 194 178 87 188 184 83 205 201 80 189 200 80 213 226
Washington Columbus New Jersey Carolina Ottawa N.Y. Islanders Florida Buffalo	72 71 72 71 71 71 71 72 71	34 36 31 31 29 27 26 20	27 29 28 31 29 35 38 43	11 6 13 9 13 9 8 8	79 208 213 78 200 194 75 175 187 71 177 200 71 203 209 63 197 239 60 175 235 48 138 210

110	Meatern conference									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
x-St. Louis	71	48	16	7		228				
d-San Jose	73	46	18	9	101	222	175			
Anaheim	71	46	18	7	99	228	180			
Chicago	72	41	16	15	97	240	186			
Colorado	71	44	21	6	94	216	194			
Los Angeles	72	41	25	6	88	177	151			
Minnesota	72	37	24	11	85		178			
Phoenix	72	34	26	12	80	199	205			

71 34 26 11 79 201 203 73 33 30 10 76 176 196 73 32 32 9 73 202 213 72 31 31 10 72 173 213 72 30 35 7 67 183 211 72 25 38 9 59 178 236 Dallas

Note: Two points for a win, or for overtime loss. d-division leader

d-division leader x-c-linched playoff spot Monday's games Montreal 2, Boston 1, SO Ottawa 4, Tampa Bay 3, SO Calgary 2, San Jose 1, SO N.Y. Rangers 4, Phoenix 3, OT Los Angeles 3, Philadelphia 2 Dallas 2, Winnipeg 1 Tuesday's games

Tuesday's games
St. Louis at Toronto
Phoenix at Pittsburgh
Los Angeles at Washington
N.Y. Islanders at Carolina
Buffalo at Montreal
Ottawa at Florida Detroit at Columbus Dallas at Chicago Colorado at Nashville

Colorado at Nashville San Jose at Edmonton Wednesday's games Vancouver at Minnesota Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers Anaheim at Calgary Thursday's games Chicago at Boston Phoenix at New Jersey Los Angeles at Pittsburgh Montreal at Detroit

Los Angeles at Pittsburgh Montreal at Detroit N.Y. Islanders at Tampa Bay Carolina at Florida Minnesota at St. Louis Buffalo at Nashville Vancouver at Colorado Winnipeg at San Jose

Senators 4, Lightning 3 (SO) 1 2 0 0-4 1 1 1 0-3

Tampa Bay
Ottawa won shootout 1-0
First Period -1, Ottawa, Ekarisson 20
Greening), 35-7, 2 Tampa Bay, Kucherov
9 (Johnson, Brown), 5:07.
Second Period -3, Ottawa, Spezza 19
(Michalek, EKarisson), 8:12, 4, Ottawa,
Turris 22 (Stone, EKarisson), 8:56, 5
Tampa Bay, Hedman 12 (Filppula, Palat),
13:26 (pp).

Tamba Bay, Hedman IZ (Filipulla, Palaty,
Third Period—6, Tampa Bay, Stamkos
21 (Palat, Callahan), 5-44 (PD).
21 (Palat, Callahan), 5-44 (PD).
22 (Palat, Callahan), 5-44 (PD).
23 (Palat, Callahan), 5-44 (PD).
24 (PD).
25 (PD).
26 (PD).
26 (PD).
26 (PD).
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A-18,486 (19,204), T-2:51.

Rangers 4, Coyotes 3 (OT)

N.V. Rangers

N.V. Rangers

On 13 (Yandle Smith), 446 (Pop. 2, Phoenix Elman Lardson 13 (Yandle Smith), 446 (Pop. 2, Phoenix Halpern 5 (Chipchura, Stone), 822, Phoenix, Chipchura, Stone), 822, Phoenix, Chipchura, Stones, 823, Phoenix, Chipchura 3 (Phoenix, Phoenix, Chipchura 3 (Phoenix, Phoenix, Chipchura 3 (Phoenix, Phoenix, Chipchura), 17 (Phoenix, Phoenix, P

Rangers, Lundqvist 29-22-4 (21-18) A-18.006 (18.006), T-2:34,

Kings 3, Flyers 2

Canadiens 2. Bruins 1 (SO) 1 0 0 0-2 0 0 1 0-1

Stars 2, Jets 1

Winnipeg 0 0 1-1
Dallas 0 0 1-1
First Period-1. Dallas, Whitney 8 (Ja. 8
Second Period-2. Dallas, Second Seriod-1. Dallas, Second Period-2. Dallas, Second Period-3. Winnipeg, Little 22 (Kane, Enstron), 17:16 (pp.)
Third Period-3. Winnipeg, Little 22 (Kane, Enstron), 17:16 (pp.)
Dallas 12-9-6-27, Power-play approximation of the property of the prope

Dallas 12-9-6—27.

Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg
1 of 3: Dallas 2 of 4. 1 of 3; Dailas Z of 4. **Goalies—Winnipeg**, Montoya 12-8-3 (27 shots-25 saves). Dallas, Lehtonen 27-17-10 (33-32). **A**=15,967 (18,532). **T**=2:37.

Flames 2, Sharks 1 (S0)

San Jose
Calgary on shootout 1-0 0-2
First Period -1. San Jose, Sheppard 4
(Nieto, Boyle), 18:11.
Second Period -2. Calgary, Colborne 9
(Wotherspoon, Glencross), 18:00.
Shootout -San Jose of Marleau NG,
Pavellski NG, Sheppard NG), Calgary 1
(Colborne NG, Hudler NG, Cammalleri

Shots on Goal—San Jose 18-4-10-2—34.
Calgary 8-12-5-2—27.
Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0
of Coalles—San Jose, Stalock 11-4-2 (27
shots-26 saves). Calgary, Ramo 13-10-4
(34-33).
A=19,829 (19,289). T-2:42.

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Tennis

Sony Open

Monday At The Tennis Center at Crandon Park At The Tennis Center at Crandon Par Key Biscayne, Fla. Purse: Men, \$5.65 million (Masters 1000); Women, \$5.43 million (Premie Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Men

Men
Third Round
Milos Raonic (12), Canada, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 6-1, 6-2.
Alexandr Dolgopolov (22), Ukraine, def. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, 3-6, 6-0, 7-6

(5). Benjamin Becker, Germany, def. Aljaz Bedene, Slovenia, 6-3, 7-5. Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Denis Is-tomin, Uzbekistan, 6-1, 6-0. Stanislas Wawrinka (3), switzerland, def. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, 7-5, 6-4.

5. 6-4. Standar Noger-Vasselin, Indice, 15-6. Fabio Fognini (14), Italy, def. Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Tomas Bercylch (7), Czech Republic, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-2, 6-4. Nicolas Almagro (18), Spain, 7-5, 6-3. Women Fourth Round Sharapova (4), Russia, def. Kitzen Flipkens (19), Belgium, 3-6, 6-4. Kitzen Flipkens (19), Belgium, 3-6, 6-4.

Kirsten Flipkens (19), Belgium, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, Angelique Kerber (5), Germany, def. Ekaterina Makarova (23), Russia, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. Serena Williams (1), United States, def. CoCo Vandeweghe, United States, 6-3, 6-1, 10-10

Ana Ivanovic (12), Serbia, 3-6, 6-0, 6-0.
Agnieszka Radwanska (3), Poland, def.
Elina Svitolina, Ukraine, 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-2.
Li Na (2), China, def. Carla Suarez Navarro (15), Spain, 6-0, 6-2.
Caroline Wozniacki (11), Denmark,
def. Varvara Lepchenko, United States,

del. varvara repetieriko, officed states, 6-0, 6-1. Dominika Cibulkova (10), Slovakia, def. Venus Williams (29), United States, 6-1, 5-7, 6-3.

(3), 6-7 (8), 10-5. Women Swomen Swom

Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesn-ina (2), Russia, def. Julia Goerges and Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Germany, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

College hockey

NCAA Division I poll

MINNEAPOLIS — The top 20 teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, compiled by U.S. College Hockey Online, with first-place votes in parenteeses, records through March 23 and previous ranking:

1. Union (31)	28-6-4	969	
2. Minnesota (18)	25-6-6		
3. Boston College	26-7-4	899	
4. Wisconsin	24-10-2	837	
5. UMass-Lowell (1)	25-10-4	795	
6. Ferris State	28-10-3		
7. Ouinnipiac	24-9-6	709	
8. St. Cloud State	21-10-5	632	
9. Notre Dame	23-14-2		1
10. Providence	21-10-6	546	
11. Minnesota State	26-13-1	501	1
12. Colgate	20-13-5	451	1
13. North Dakota	23-13-3		1
14. Vermont	20-14-3		1
15. Michigan	18-13-4	261	1
16. Cornell	17-10-5		1
17. Denver	20-15-6		
18. New Hampshire			
19. Northeastern	19-14-4	143	1
	18-14-5		
Others receiving	votes: Yale	33.	Rol

uthers receiving votes: Yale 33, Rob ert Morris 31, Western Michigan 13, Mi ami 5, Alaska-Anchorage 1, Minnesota Duluth 1.

College basketball

NCAA Men's tournament EAST REGIONAL Regional Semifinals At Madison Square Garden New York Fiday, March 28 UConn (28-6) vs. Iowa State (28-7) Michigan State (28-8) vs. Virginia (30-

Regional State (28-8) v. Virginia d. Regional Championship Sunday, March 30 Semifinal winner Sci00NAL Regional Semifinals AF FedExForum Memphis, Tenn. To Jayoton Law 200, March
MIDWEST REGIONAL Regional Semifinals At Lucas Oil Stadium

Indianapolis Friday, March 28 nigan (27-8) vs. Tennessee (24-12) ucky (26-10) vs. Louisville (31-5) Regional Championship Sunday, March 30 ifinal winners

Semifinal winners WEST REGIONAL WEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
At The Honda Center
Anaheim, Calif,
Thursday, March 27
Wisconsin (28-7) vs. Baylor (26-11)
San Diego State (31-4) vs. Arizona (32-

Regional Championship Saturday, March 29

Saturday, Semifinal winners FINAL FOUR At AT&T Stadiu Arlington, Texas ational Semifinals

National Semifinals
Saturday, April 5
East champion vs. South champion
Midwest champion vs. West champion National Championship

Monday, April 7 Semifinal winners

Men's NIT

Quarterfinals Tuesday, March 25 Belmont (26-9) at Clemson (22-12) Southern Miss (29-6) at Minnesota Wednesday, March 26 Louisiana Tech (29-7) at Florida State

(21-13) California (21-13) at SMU (25-9)

CBI

Ouarterfinals Quarterfinals Monday, March 24 Siena 54, Penn State 52 Old Dominion 82, Radford 59 Illinois State 62, Texas A&M 5 Fresno State 72, Princeton 56 Semifinals

Semifinals Wednesday, March 26 Illinois State (18-15) at Siena (17-17) Old Dominion (18-17) at Fresno State (19-16)

CIT

Quarterfinals Wednesday, March 26 VMI (21-12) at Ohio (24-11) Yale (17-13) at Columbia (21-12) raie (1/1-13) at Columbia (21-12) San Diego (18-16) at Pacific (17-15) Thursday, March 27 Towson State (25-10) at Murray State (20-11)

NCAA Men's Division II tournament

Quarterfinals At Evansville, Ind. Wednesday, March 26

Wednesday, March 26 S. Connecticut vs. Central Missouri Tuskegee vs. Metro State Drury vs. West Liberty Cal State Chico vs. S. Carolina Aiken

NCAA Women's tournament

NCAA Women's tournament
LINCOLN REGIONAL
LINCOLN EGEIONAL

5-8)

Regional Semifinals
At Lincoln, Neb.
Saturday, March 29
UConn-Saint Joseph's winner vs. BYU

DePaul (29-6) vs. James Madison-Tex-as A&M winner

Monday, March 31 Regional Championship nal winners STANFORD REGIONAL

STANFORD REGIONAL
First Round
Saturday, March 22
At Ames, Iowa
Florida State 55, Iowa State 44
Stanford 81, South Dakota 62
Sunday, March 23
At Seattle
South Carolina 73, Cal State NorthIge 58

South Carolina 73, Cal State North-ridge S8 Oregon State 55, Middle Tennessee 36 At Chapel Hill, N.C. Michigan State 91, Hampton 61, North March 19, Michael 19,

At Chapel Hill, N.C.
Michigan State (23-9) vs. North Carolina (25-9)

na (25-9) At State College, Pa. Florida (20-12) vs. Penn State (23-7) Regional Semifinals At Stanford, Calif.

Sunday, March 30
South Carolina-Oregon State winner
vs. Michigan State-North Carolina win-Stanford (30-3) vs. Florida-Penn State winner

inner
Regional Championship
Tuesday, April 1
Semifinal winners
NOTRE DAME REGIONAL First Round Saturday, March 22

Saturday, March 22 At Toledo, Ohio Arizona State 69, Vanderbilt 61 Notre Dame 93, Robert Morris 42 At West Lafayette, Ind. Oklahoma State 61, Florida Gulf Coast 60, OT

OT Purdue 84, Akron 55 At Lexington, Ky. Kentucky 106, Wright State 60 Syracuse 53, Chattanooga 53 California 64, Fordham 63 Baylor 87, Western Kentucky 74 Second Round Monday, March 24 At Toledo, Ohio 167

At Toledo, Ohio
Notre Dame 84, Arizona State 67
At West Lafayette, Ind.
Oklahoma State 73, Purdue 66
At Lexington, Ky.
Kentucky 64, Syracuse 59
At Waco, Texas
Baylor 75, California 56

Regional Semifinals At Notre Dame, Ind. Saturday, March 29

Kentucky (26-8) vs. Baylor (31-4) Notre Dame (34-0) vs. Oklahoma State (25-8)

5-8)

Regional Championship
Monday, March 31

Semifinal winners
LOUISVILLE REGIONAL
First Round

LOUISYILLE REGIONAL.
Saturday, March 22
At Knoxville, Tenn.
Tennes At Knoxville, Tenn.
Tennes At Knoxville, Tenn.
Tennes State
Sunday, March 23
Exas 79, Pennsylvania 61
Texas 79, Pennsylvania 61
Louisyille 88, Idaho 42
Iowa 87, Marist 65
Iowa 98, March 24
Iowa 98, Iowa 98

Monday, March 24 At Knoxville, Tenn. see 67. St. John's 51

Iennessee 67, St. John's 51 Tuesday, March 25 At College Park, Md. Texas (22-11) vs. Maryland (25-6) At Iowa City, Iowa Iowa vs. Louisville (31-4) At Baton Rouge, La. LSU (20-12) vs. West Virginia (30-4)

Women's NIT

Third Round Wednesday, March 26 San Diego (24-8) vs. Washington (19-

Thursday, March 27 George Washington (23-10) at South Florida (21-12) orida (21-12) Northwestern (17-15) at Indiana (20-12) Michigan (20-13) at Bowling Green Seton Hall (20-13) at Rutgers (24-9) Auburn (19-14) at Mississipi State (21-

Minnesota (22-12) at South Dakota State (24-9) ate (24-9) Friday, March 28 Colorado (19-14) vs. UTEP (26-7)

NCAA Women's Division II

tournament Quarterfinals
At Erie, Pa.
Tuesday, March 25
Limestone vs. West Texas A&M
Nova Southeastern vs. Concordia-St.

uul Bentley vs. Drury Edinboro vs. Cal Poly Pomona

College baseball

Baseball America Top 25

DURHAM, N.C. — The top 25 teams in the Baseball America poll with records through March 23 and previous ranking (voting by the staff of Baseball Ameri-ca):

1. Florida State	19-4	2
2. South Carolina	19-3	- 1
3. Virginia	18-4	- 3
4. Louisiana-Lafavette	22-2	- 5
5. Cal Poly	19-4	7
6. Oregon State	19-4	2 1 3 5 7 4 6 8
7. Vanderbilt	20-5	- 7
8. LSU	20-3	9
		ŝ
9. Cal State Fullerton	13-8	
10. Rice	19-6	11
11. Oregon	17-5	12
12. Texas	19-6	15
 Mississippi 	21-4	
14. Louisville	17-6	14
15. UC Santa Barbara	17-3	19
16. Mississippi State	17-9	21
17. Houston	19-4	23
18, UCLA	14-8	22
19. Kentucky	17-7	_
20. Clemson	14-9	13
21. Auburn	17-8	13
22. Tennessee	19-4	18
23. Georgia Tech	15-9	=
24. North Carolina	15-8	17
25, N.C. State	14-8	10

Collegiate Baseball poll

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Collegiate Base-ball poll with records through March 23.

Voting is done by coacl	nes, spo	rts v	vrit-
ers and sports informat			
	Record	Pts	
1. Louisiana-Lafayette	22-2	493	6
2. South Carolina	19-3	490	1
3. Florida State	19-4	488	2
4. Virginia	18-4	486	4
5. Vanderbilt	20-5	485	3
6. LSU	20-4-1		7
7. Oregon	17-5		8
8. Oregon State	19-5		5
9. Cal Poly	19-4	475	10
10. UC Santa Barbara	17-3	472	15
11. Louisville	17-6	468	- 9
12. Mississippi	21-4	466	16
13. Cal State Fullerton	13-8		
14. Rice	19-6	462	21
15. Texas	19-6	460	19
16. Mississippi State	17-9	457	24
17. Kentucky	17-7		
18. Houston	19-4	453	=
19. Washington	16-5-1	450	
20. Auburn	17-8		29
21. Tennessee	19-4		14
22. Seton Hall	15-4		
23. UCLA	14-8		22
24. North Carolina	15-8	420	23 12
	16-6	430	12
25. Maryland			
26. VCU	20-3	433	
27. N.C. State	14-8	431	11
28. Clemson	14-9 13-10	427	26
29. Baylor			
30. FIÚ	20-4	423	30

Monday's scores SOUTH

Georgetown (Ky.) 15, Asbury 2 Martin Methodist 12, Freed-Hardeman Mary Washington 8, E. Mennonite 4 Virginia 5, Miami 3

Pro baseball

Spring training

Monday's games Boston vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.,

Boston vs. Sarasota, Fla.

God, Rain

October Sarasota, Fla.

Betroit Sa.

Pittsburph at Bradenta,

Philadelphia, 6, Toronto 3, 8 innings

Washington 4, Miamil

Washington 4, Miamil

N.Y. Mets 5, St. Louis

Sarasota, Sarasota, Sarasota, Sarasota,

La. Angles 11, San Francisco

Texas 6, Dakland

Texas 7, Chicago

Ballimore vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers 7, Name 1, Name

ers, Fla.
Atlanta vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.
Boston vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla.

rte, Fla. N.Y. Mets vs. Washington at Viera, Fla. St. Louis vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla. Toronto vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton,

Fla. Colorado vs. Chicago White Sox at endale, Ariz. Texas vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz. Cincinnati vs. Oakland at Phoenix San Francisco vs. Milwaukee at Phoe-

L.A. Angels vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz.
Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.
Seattle vs. Kansas City at Surprise,

Calendar

March 26 — Last day to request un-conditional release waivers on a player without having to pay his full 2014 salwithout having to pay ary. March 30 — Opening day in North America, Los Angeles Dodgers at San Diego. Active rosters reduced to 25 play-

Deals

Monday's transactions

Major League Baseball
Major League Baseball
MLB — Suspended Tampa Bay RHP
lex Colome 50 games after testing posive for Boldenon.
American

e for Boldenone.

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Traded INF
ex Gonzalez to Detroit for INF Steve
mbardozzi. Designated C Johnny Alex Gonzalez to Detroit for INF Steve Lombardozzi. Designated C Johnny Monell for assignment. CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with LHP Jose Quintana on a five-year contract.

year contract.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Optioned RHP
Trevor Bauer and RHP C.C. Lee to Colum-bus (IL). Reassigned INFs David Cooper and Bryan LaHair to minor league camp. Granted RHP Aaron Harang his uncondi-tional release.

Houston Astros — Optioned RHP Josh Zeid to Oklahoma City (PCL). Reassigned OF Adron Chambers and C Rene Garcia to minor league camp. Released INF Cesar Izturis.

INT Cesar Izturis.

KANASA CITY ROYALS — Optioned OF KANASA CITY ROYALS — Optioned OF Minmy Paredes to Omaha (PCL). Assigned RHP Jon Rauch and C Adam Moore to minor league camn.

nor league camp.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Optioned RHPs
Ryan Pressly and Michael Tonkin and C
Chris Herrmann to Rochester (IL). Reassigned LHPs Matt Hoffman and Aaron Thompson, RHP Deolis Guerra, OF Wilkin Ramirez and INFs Doug Bernier and De-ibinson Romero to minor league camp. Granted RHP Matt Guerrier his uncondi-tional roles of nal release. **SFATTLE MARINERS —** Released RHP

SEATTLE MARINERS — Released Rith Scott Baker. Torknot of Stevens on a one-year contract.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Waived
18/3B Juan Francisco for the purpose of

giving him his unconditional release.

NEW YORK METS — Named Luis Na
tera assistant hitting coach. Released

NEW YORK MEIS — Mainer State tera assistant hitting coach. Released RHP Kyle Farnsworth.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Optioned RHP Jesse Hahn to San Antonio (PCL). Reas-signed C Austin Hedges to minor league

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Optioned of Randal Grichuk to the Memphis (IL). WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Reas signed RHP Blake Treinen to mino league camp. Released C Chris Snyder. BASKETBALL

RASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
PHILADELPHIA TEERS — Signed G
Casper Ware to a 10-day contract.
Women's National Basketball Association
CONNECTICUT SUN — Signed G Katie
Douglas to a two-year contract.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
CLIMIT BENGALS — Signed CS R.J.
CLIMIT BENGALS — Signed CS R.J.
CLIMIT BENGALS — Signed CS R.J.

Stanford.
Stanford.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Agreed to
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Agreed to
CLEVELAND STANDARD STANDARD

ATTHEMPORT STEELERS — Signed LB
Arthur Moats to a one-year contract.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Re-signed
WR Kassim Osgood to a one-year con-

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Signed D
stin Faulk to a six-year contract exten-CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Agreed to rms with D Trevor van Riemsdyk on a two-year contract.

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Recalled
D Tim Erixon from Springfield (AHL). Returned D Frederic St. Denis on loan to

Springfield. Spring field. Springfield. Spri

FLORIDA PANTHERS — Reassigned LW rrett Wilson to San Antonio (AHL). Garrett Wilson to San Antonio (AHL).

OTTAWA SENATORS — Reassigned
G Andrew Hammond to Binghamton
(AHL).

(AHL).

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
COLUMBUS CREW — Announced the
resignation of president Mark McCullers, effective April 30.

COLLEGE

BUTLER - Announced men's fresh-an basketball F Nolan Berry will trans-

r to another school. CARSON-NEWMAN — Announced the ation of men's golf coach Je nor. DAYTON - Signed men's basketball coach Archie Miller to a contract exten

on through the 2018-19 season.
GEORGE WASHINGTON — Granted
phomore F Paris Maragkos his release
transfer from the men's basketball

HOUSTON — Announced the resigna-in of men's basketball coach James

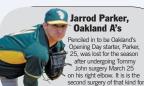
tion of men's basketball coach James Dickey. INDIANA – Announced men's sopho-more basketball Fs. Austin Etherington and Jeremy Hollowell are transferring. PENN – Named M. Grace Calhoun ath-letic director, effective July 1. WEST VIRGUINA – Announced men's sophomore basketball G Eron Harris plans to transfer.

him since 2009.





第3種郵便物設可



Kris Medlen. **Atlanta Braves**

The Braves lost their second start ing pitcher when Medlen, 28, underwent his second right elbow ligament replacement surgery. He first tore his UCL against the New York Mets on Aug. 4, 2010.



Shutting it down

Pitchers having a painful spring

BY BEN WALKER The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. arrod Parker, Kris Medlen, Bran-don Beachy and Luke Hochevar are out for the season and Patrick Corbin might join them in the operating room soon.

All over spring training, there's been an outbreak of wrecked elbows and pained

Next stop, those dreaded words: Tommy John surgery. "It doesn't surprise me at all." Tommy

John himself said Tuesday. "Tommy John surgery will grow exponentially in the next 50 years. "I really think there will come a day

when if you have 12 pitchers on your staff, 10 will have had Tommy John surgery," the 70-year-old lefty told The Associated Press from his home in Watertown, N.Y.

Still, this recent wave makes Boston Red Sox manager John Farrell

"It grabs all of our attention," he said before his World Series champions played the York Yankees. "There's a rash of it going on right

"Regardless

who they play for, it's a sad day when you read about

a guy that's having the surgery," he said.
"You empathize with the guys going down.
There's a long road ahead of them." As to why so many sudden cases, Farrell isn't sure.

"It makes you scratch your head," the former big league pitcher said. "I don't

Luke Hochevar, Kansas City Royals

After feeling a twinge in his right elbow on his next-to-last pitch in a March 4 exhibition game against the Chicago White Sox, an MRI revealed a ligament in the 30-year-old relief pitcher's elbow that was at least 50 percent torn, along with corresponding tears in the muscle around the elbow. In 2010, he suffered a first tear, somewhere between 25 and 40 percent, but rehabbed it and pitched effectively for four years after that.

have an explanation."

Stars Stephen Strasburg, Adam Wain-wright, Tim Hudson, John Lackey and Joe Nathan are among the dozens of pitchers who have come back strong from the ligament transplant procedure.

Young Mets ace Matt Harvey, who threw the first pitch at last summer's All-Star game, had the surgery in October. He's working out in camp and hopes to pitch this year.

'I think after watching what happened to a couple guys on the Braves, everybody's always going to be so cautious about the recovery, but as a competitor we're always going to want to get back on the field," he said Tuesday

One trend Farrell has detected:

"What's happening more is guys going for a second one." he said.

The NI. East champion Braves took a double hit with injuries to Medlen and Beachy, both of whom previously had Tommy John surgery.

The AL West champion Athletics once again lost Parker to the operation. He was scheduled to start on opening day. Teammate A.J. Griffin might be more fortunate - his sore elbow might heal on its own

Corbin had been set to throw the first pitch of the 2014 regular season.

The 24-year-old lefty was ready to start for Arizona in Australia this Saturday against the Dodgers. Instead, the All-Star felt "a small little shock" in his arm during an exhibition outing. Corbin later be-

I really think there will come a day when if you have 12 pitchers on your staff, 10 will have had Tommy John surgery. 7

Tommy John 26-year Major League pitcher

visit the busy doctor's office of prominent orthopedic surgeon James Andrews. "This is all new to me," Corbin said.
"I've never been hurt before, so I'm just

trying to get through it."

Hochevar, a reliable reliever for the Royals, felt a twinge on his next-to-last pitch in a game on March 4 against the Chicago White Sox. An MRI revealed a major tear

of the ulnar collateral ligament. The 30-year-old Hochevar missed almost three months in 2010 because of a sprained elbow.

'I knew this day was coming," he said. "After the first time I hurt it, I knew it was coming. I'm extremely thankful it held up for four years.

Not so lucky was Padres pitcher Cory Luebke. He recently had his second reconstructive surgery on his left elbow, having missed the entire 2013 season while rehabilitating from his first operation.

Everyday players aren't immune from this type of injury, either.

Minnesota power-hitting prospect Miguel Sano found out this spring trainprospect ing that he'll need the surgery, a setback for the 20-year-old third baseman. Texas outfielder Shin-Soo Choo had it several vears ago.

To the pitcher whose name is synony-mous with the career-saving surgery, more players will follow his path. John earned 288 victories from 1963 to 1989 after Dr. Frank Jobe performed

the pioneering surgery on him in 1974, John won 164 times and never missed a start because of elbow trouble before retiring at age 46. John thinks too

pitchers many are putting too much stress their arms at an early age

> before they ever become pros. He also be-

well

lieves several of the pitchers who are getting hurt this spring had pre-existing

"I'm not a doctor, but the way I deduce it, some of these guys had something wrong last year," he said. "It just doesn't make sense that your arm or elbow just would disintegrate in three weeks."



MIB

Edge: Molina brothers, Lucroy among the majors' most skilled

FROM BACK PAGE

How much does it influence the game? More than you probably thought. In a sabermetric age where everything is measurable, teams can calculate how many runs a catcher can save by mastering the art of pitch framing. Webpages galore are devoted to the topic, with stat-geeks analyzing the location of every single pitch and tabulating which catchers are best and winning balls and losing strikes.

Teams are keeping count as well. Knorr is the bench coach for the Washington Nationals, who have devoted more resources to analytics in recent years under general manager Mike Rizzo. This spring training, Rizzo made a trade with the Tampa Bay Rays to acquire Jose Lobaton, in part because Lobaton rated well in pitch framing. Where did Lobaton learn the skill? From

the guru himself, Molina. "It's like those pitches away that when you think that it's a ball, he can make those a strike," Lobaton said. "I've been trying to

do the same. But I'm not like him. I try to be like him, but I can't.'

A half-dozen extra strikes in a game can make a difference. Rays manager Joe Madden once said that Molina is worth 50 runs per season based solely on pitch fram-ing. Other estimates vary, but mathematical consensus shows that Molina's subtlety with the glove translates into three to five extra wins each year. That's enough to win or lose a pennant.

"Any pitch that can change a count that way, whether it's going to be a 2-1 or a 1-2, that's the biggest swing you can possibly have right there." Nationals reliever Drew Storen said. "It keeps you in good counts. It definitely helps you out, if you can get five or six calls that would've gone the other way just from the catching framing it."

Molina's peers at the top of pitch-framing ratings include his brother, Yadier Molina of the St. Louis Cardinals, and Jonathan Lucroy of the Milwaukee Brewers. All have something in common: soft movements using the wrist and elbow while the rest of the body stays still. Lucroy, who checks in at 195 pounds, has flourished despite a frame not necessarily suitable for

framer

Jose

framing. "It's strange," Brewers closer Jim Hen-derson said. "You would think if you miss your spot as a pitcher with that small target you might not get the call but somehow he makes it work within the parame-ters of the plate there. So it's ac-tually amazing

A half-dozen extra strikes in a game can make a difference. Rays manager Joe Madden once said that (Jose) Molina, below, is worth 50 runs per season based solely on pitch framing. Other estimates vary, but mathematical consensus shows that Molina's subtlety with the glove translates into three to five extra wins each year. That's enough to win or lose a pennant.

tween guys who can catch and guys who can't," Lucroy said. "The pitcher hates it because he wants to be able to pitch and throw, knowing the pitch he throws, that if it's a strike, it's going to be called a strike and not taken outside of the zone. ... The easiest thing for young players to work on is just keeping your head and body still and just moving your hand. That's all it is; catch

Or, as Nats pitching coach Steve McCatty put it: "You've got to stick the landing.

Another pitch-framing master was fourtime All-Star Bob Boone. Now a Nationals assistant general manager, Boone would be so intent on keeping still that if the bases were empty he would let the ball glance off his webbing and roll to the backstop rather

said Boone, pointing to gap between his thumb and forefinger, "but sometimes I miss 'em. 'Hey I'm right on the corner, you saw I was on the corner, and he threw it in my glove.' ... If you can get a half-inch on each side and the strike zone's 20 inches high, that's 20 square inches. That's like 4-by-5. All of a sudden the pitcher knows I've got that much big-

Conversely, there are catch-

ger strike zone."

ers who just can't sit still. It shouldn't be a surprise that Jorge Posada, who retired three years ago, statistically ranks among the worst pitch-framers in recent major league history. Posada spoke of importance of the skill while working as a guest instructor with the New York Yan-kees this spring, but he didn't venture an opinion as to his own

ability.

"I don't know. I guess people can go back and look and see how they thought I did." Posada said. 'Some guvs were better than others, I guess.'

how well he does if we screw up."

Lucroy said it took years to hone the skill after he first paid attention in the minors. It's a world of difference from those Little Leaguers who yank the ball every which

way.
"You can see a big, big difference bethe ball and stop it."

than move his mitt to catch it.

"I'm going to try to catch it right here, General manager Sandy Alderson said Tuesday the right-hander will be with the club in New York during homestands and work at the team's spring complex in Port St. Lucie when the Mets are on the road. Since arriving in camp in February,

Harvey has been adamant he rehabilitate in New York rather than Port St. Lucie.

Braves release RHP Garcia KISSIMMEE, Fla. - Atlanta released pitcher Freddy Garcia, who was contend-

ing for a spot in the Braves' battered rota-

tion, and agreed to a \$1 million, one-year

contract with right-hander Aaron Harang.

The team announced Garcia's uncondi-

tional release Monday on the deadline for

him to be put on the major league roster

lion guaranteed salary.

which would have triggered a \$1.25 mil-

"They said they didn't want to pick it

The 37-year-old right-hander was cut

up. I have to go," said Garcia, who started

Game 4 of last year's NL division series

despite a strong outing Sunday, when he

limited the New York Mets to an unearned

run and two hits in 51/3 innings. He was 1-

1 with a 4.76 ERA in five spring training

PORT ST LUCIE, Fla - The New York

Mets and Matt Harvey have agreed where

the pitcher will rehabilitate from elbow

ligament-replacement surgery

Mets' Harvey will split rehab

against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Bourn to start season on DL

GOODYEAR, Ariz. - The Cleveland Indians will place center fielder Michael Bourn on the disabled list before their opener at Oakland on March 31.

Bourn might miss only four regular-season games because of the injury, a tight left

Outfielder Nyjer Morgan was told by general manager Chris Antonetti and manager Terry Francona that he will be on the Indians' opening-day roster.

Darvish won't start opener

SURPRISE, Ariz. - Texas Rangers ace Yu Darvish has been scratched from his scheduled start in Monday's season opener because of stiffness in his neck. The announcement Tuesday came a day after Darvish stopped throwing while playing catch.

Through his interpreter, Darvish said he knew he wasn't going to be ready to pitch the opener at home against Philadelphia, so he made the decision now.

Darvish was scratched from a spring training start Friday. He said then that he had stiffness in his neck that he felt after waking up one morning. He is scheduled to return to Texas to be examined by spine and back specialist Dr. Drew Dossett.

From The Associated Press



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SPORTS BRIEFS/WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

Briefly

NFL office can aid refs on replays

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The NFL officiating department will help referees rule on instant replay reviews starting next season.

League owners passed a rule Tuesday allowing referees to consult with director of officiaing Dean Blandino and his staff to help determine whether a call should be upheld or overturned. NFL officials said the change should speed up the process. Blandino and other staff will be

Blandino and other staff will be monitoring the games from league offices in New York, and they will immediately begin reviewing challenges before the referee even gets to his monitor. They can make recommendations on what replays to look at, but the referee still will make the final decision.

Rich McKay, Falcons president and co-chairman of the influential competition committee, called it "kind of a proof of concept to see how this works. We feel pretty comfortable with it, though."

"What we do like is we take the true experts in replay, those in New York, to be able to communicate with the referees who have the ultimate decision," McKay said. "We just think we get a more consistent decision-making process."

will be faster and make more eyes available to help in the reviews.

"We'll be reviewing all the angles the network is providing, in essence finding what is the best reviewable aspect, and getting a baseline for the referee," he said. "Then we will begin the communication process with the referee once he is done speaking to the coach and announcing the challenge.

"Consistency is what we are striving for in officiating and this will definitely help us in that area."

The owners also banned rollup blocks to the side of a player. In the past, the rule only barred such blocks from behind.

HOF QB Kelly to have more cancer surgery

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Hall of Fame quarterback Jim Kelly is expected to have surgery again following the recurrence of cancer that his wife described as aggressive and "starting to spread."

Doctors for the 54-year-old former Buffalo Bills star are leaning toward surgery Thursday or perhaps April 1 at a New York City hospital, brother Dan Kelly told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Jim Kelly's doctors in Buffalo
said March 14 the cancer was
found to have returned when
Kelly had follow-up tests after
surgery last June to remove cancerous cells from his upper iaw.

Since then, wife Jill Kelly has

been providing updates on social media. In a March 21 blog post she described the hospital rooms "where we 'huddle-up' as a family to call the next play and plan the next move now that the cancer's back, aggressive, and starting to smead"

In other NFL news:

■ The Dallas Cowboys have filed a complaint against Jay Ratliff and are seeking compensation from the defensive lineman.

Ratliff was sidelined last season while recovering from a sports hernia that required surgery. He was placed on the physically unable to perform list, but when he told the Cowboys he was not physically able to play, they released him in October.

A week later, Ratliff's surgeon medically cleared him to play and he signed with the Bears, playing five games for them.

The Cowboys want to recover a portion of the signing bonus Ratliff got when he agreed to a five-year, \$40 million contract in 2011, a person familiar with the complaint told The Associated Press.

Family: Navy RB has 'long road ahead'

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The family of Navy running back Will McKamey says their son faces a 'long road' ahead after he was hospitalized with a brain injury,

McKamey collapsed during practice Saturday and was immediately transported to a hospital.

His family said in a statement released through the school on Monday the injury was not the result of a particularly hard hit. The statement said: "Will did not sustain a bad hit or unusual or extreme contact... The Navy coaches have poured through the films of practice and seen nothing more than Will carrying the football normally, doing what he truly loves."

The family says, "We are in for a long road."

McKamey was hospitalized in 2012 with a brain injury but was cleared to play after seeing four neurosurgeons and undergoing several CAT scans and MRIs, his family said.

Franchitti to drive pace car for Indy 500

INDIANAPOLIS—Three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dario Franchitti will drive the pace car in the 98th Indy 500 on May 25.

Franchitti was forced to retire in November from injuries suffered in an October IndyCar race at Houston. The four-time series champion from Scotland won the Indy 500 in 2007, 2010 and 2012.

Franchitti has moved into a driver development role with Chip Ganassi Racing.



TED RICHARDSON/A

Duke's Tricia Liston, left, is pressured by DePaul's Jessica January during the second half of Duke's 74-65 loss in their NCAA tournament second-round game Monday in Durham, N.C.

Roundup

DePaul ousts No. 2 seed Duke

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Now both Duke basketball teams are done. The Blue Devil women followed the men's team out of their NCAA

tournament after they were upset.
The Duke women were done
in by DePaul 74-65 in the second round Monday night — three
days after the men were bounced
in their opener by Mercer.

Injury-depleted Duke — which had 21 turnovers — became the first No. 2 seed to lose in the second round since Xavier was beaten by Louisville in 2011.

Duke (28-7) led for only 12 seconds and became the first top-four seed to lose in the tournament.

Elizabeth Williams scored 12 points and blocked seven shots. Seniors Haley Peters and Tricia Liston each added 11 in their final game at Cameron Indoor Stadium

The Blue Devils had made four straight appearances in the regional finals and coach Joanne P. McCallie wasn't terribly pleased about being placed in the same bracket as No. 1 overall seed Connecticut.

That's not a concern anymore.
"They were on top of our ball handlers and we didn't handle it very well," Peters said. "We just got a little bit rattled, I think, by how aggressive and how much pressure they put on us."

DePaul hit a season-high 14 three-pointers, and seven of them came immediately after baskets by the Blue Devils.

"We have the greenish green light," guard Brittany Hrynko said. "He doesn't mind us taking threes. He said as long as we take them, we have to defend and rebound.""

Megan Rogowski scored 22 points with six threes, Megan Podkowa added 18 points and Hrynko had 14 for the seventhseeded Blue Demons (29-6). "It has to absolutely be the biggest win for this group of young women this season," coach Doug Bruno said of a team that has won 18 of 19 and earned its third appearance in the round of 16.

DePaul will play the James Madison-Texas A&M winner on Saturday in the Lincoln Regional semifinals.

BYU 80, Nebraska 76: At Los Angeles, Morgan Bailey tied her career high with 18 points, Jennifer Hamson had 15 points and 14 rebounds, and BYU held on, advancing to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA women's tournament for the first time since 2002.

Lexi Eaton added 15 points and Xojian Harry hit three threepointers in the final eight minutes for the 12th-seeded Cougars (28-6), who became just the third No. 12 seed to reach the final 16.

Notre Dame Regional

Notre Dame 84, Arizona State 67: At Toledo, Ohio, Natalie Achonwa had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and top-seeded Notre Dame pulled away in the second half for a victory.

The unbeaten Fighting Irish (34-0) have won their last 15 games by double digits, although the Sun Devils (23-10) kept this one close during a sloppy first half. Deja Mann scored 16 points for Arizona State.

Baylor 76, California 56: Odyssey Sims scored 27 points in her final home game and Baylor advanced to its sixth consecutive NCAA Sweet 16, taking over in the second half for a victory.

Sims punctuated a gameclinching 13-2 run with a long three-pointer with 4½ minutes left. Baylor coach Kim Mulkey could only smile even though she appeared to be calling for a different play from the sideline. Sims scored 11 points in that spurt of about five minutes that pushed Baylor (31-4) ahead 66-52.

Baylor, the No. 2 seed in the Notre Dame Regional, has a rematch with Kentucky (26-8) on Saturday in South Bend, Ind.

Kentucky 64, Syracuse 59: Bria Goss scored 17 points and third-seeded Kentucky held off visiting Syracuse.

Goss went 11-for-12 from the foul line as the Wildcats (26-8) ground out a victory two days after beating Wright State by 4 points. Syracuse's physical play and its 2-3 zone defense had a listrupting Kentucky's rhythm and scoring opportunities in a 36-percent shooting

performance. State 73, Purdue 66: Brittney Martin had 20 points and 20 rebounds to lead Oklahoma State past Purdue and into the Sweet 16.

The Cowgirls (25-8) won their second straight, ending a 15-game stretch in which they had alternated wins and losses.

Stanford Regional

Stanford 63, Florida State 44:

Chiney Ogwumike had 19 points and nine rebounds, and Stanford broke open the game with a 30-2 run spanning the halves.

The second-seeded Cardinal (31-3) won two games in Ames, Iowa to advance to the regional they'll host starting Saturday.

Louisville Regional

Tennessee 67, St. John's 51: Cierra Burdick had 21 points and 11 rebounds as host Tennessee relied on its smothering defense to pull away.

Tennessee, the top seed in the Louisville Regional, advanced to a regional semifinal Sunday against the winner of Tuesday's game between No. 4 seed Maryland and No. 5 seed Texas.

NCAA TOURNAMENT



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

San Diego State's Xavier Thames (2) scored 19 points in the Aztecs' first meeting with Arizona this season, a 69-60 loss on Nov. 14. Thames gets another shot at the No. 1-seeded Wildcats on Thursday in a West Region semifinal game in Anaheim, Calif.

San Diego State painfully aware of its Sweet 16 foe

By Bernie Wilson The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Steve Fisher's San Diego State Aztecs are painfully familiar with their opponent in the Sweet 16, the top-seeded Arizona Wildcats.

Last season, Nick Johnson swooped out of nowhere to block a layup by Chase Tapley to preserve a one-point Wildcats win in a tournament in Hawaii. In the second game this season, San Diego State pulled within four points of the visiting Wildcats before freshman Aaron Gordon had a soaring dunk off an inbounds pass from T.J. McConnell to put away the Aztecs. Arizona won 69-60.

"They both sting, but the one in Hawaii kind of hurt the most because we thought we for sure had that game won, and then Nick Johnson just came out of nowhere and blocked the shot," San Diego State's star point guard, Xavier Thames, said Monday. "But it's adays a good game when we play against Arizona the last few years. So I'm sure it's going to be another great one."

They'll meet again Thursday night in Anaheim. While Arizona is used to getting this far, it's only





West Region semifinal No. 1 Arizona (32-4) vs. No. 4 San Diego State (31-4) AFN-Xtra

3 a.m. Friday CET 11 a.m. Friday JKT

the second Sweet 16 appearance for the fourth-seeded Aztecs. They lost in the regional semifinals three years ago to eventual national champion Connecticut, also in Anaheim.

"We're trying to do something we've never done before," Fisher said. "Arizona is trying to do old school, what they've gotten used to doing. So we'll both have the same goal, win two games in Anaheim."

San Diego State reached the Sweet 16 by beating New Mexico State in overtime and then routing North Dakota State behind Thames' 30 points. While the Aztecs were winning in Spokane, Wash. the Wildcats won twice in San Diego, beating Weber State and then racing by Gonzaga.

Arena workers removed the floor used for the tournament and had the Aztecs' hardwood reinstalled in time for practice Monday.

While the Aztecs are excited to still be alive, "we don't want anybody to assume that we don't feel like we belong," Fisher said. "We are going up with the expectations that we feel like we're good enough to win."

Beating the Wildcats would be huge for a lot of reasons, including being another major step under Fisher, who has turned a once-moribund team into one of the best programs in the West

On Monday morning, several students lined up at Viejas Arena to buy tickets to the Sweet 16.

"We've packed this building, 12,414 strong, for several seasons now in a row," Fisher said. "I can look out my window and see the ticket window during the season, and I could tell. Sometimes I would ask, "What concert is there?" And they would say, "No, that's for us. That's for our game.' So that doesn't surprise me. We're right uu the road."

NCAA apologizes for New Mexico State's travel issues

By Bernie Wilson
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The NCAA apologized to New Mexico State and said it will evaluate

its travel policy after the Aggies had to fly home in the middle of the night following their second-round tournament loss and were met by only one bus at the airport.

Athletic director
McKinley Boston said in a phone interview
with The Associated Press on Monday that
he received a call during the weekend from
Dan Gavitt, vice president of the men's basketball championship.

"He said it was inconsistent with their effort to provide the full NCAA experience," Boston said. "He was disappointed that our experience wasn't a positive one and that they would do everything possible to evaluate it and try to make sure the experience going forward was adequate."

New Mexico State and San Diego State were told before Thursday's game in Spokane, Wash, that the loser would have to fly home that night. The game started later than scheduled because the North Dakota State-Oklahoma game went into overtime, and then the Aggies and Aztecs went into overtime before San Diego State won.

After Aggies coach Marvin Menzies and the players fulfilled their postgame interview obligations, the team, pep band and cheerleaders went back to the hotel 15 miles east of downtown Spokane and quickly packed while hotel employees prepared 70 box lunches. The Aggies arrived at the airport, which is west of downtown, at about 1 a.m. The plane departed at about 2:15 a.m. and arrived in El Paso, Texas, at around 7 a.m., but only one bus was waiting. The team and some boosters were bused to Las Cruces, N.M., while everyone else had to wait to make the 2½-hour round trip to pick them up.

"That part of it was probably the most disappointing thing for me, only because I knew that two-thirds of the plane was going to be disappointed that we'd flown all night, and now they've got to sit around for another two to three hours because at that point we didn't know very much information other than there was one bus," Boston said.

The matter might not have been a big deal beyond Las Cruces if not for San Diego State coach Steve Fisher, who ripped into the NCAA in his postgame news conference. "I'm going to do something I never do. I'm going to complain about the NCAA process. And I hope somebody writes it," the normally genial Fisher said, mentioning that neither team wanted to go home that night if it lost.

"It's disgraceful," said Fisher, who hired Menzies as part of his original staff at San Diego State in 1999. "For the billions of dollars that we have here for them not to find a way to accommodate these kids, the studentathletes — You can't tell me they couldn't find charter planes. And that's what they told me. I shouldn't have to call the NCAA, and I did today to say, 'Why?''
David McCollum, New Mexico State's

deputy AD, said he received an apology from the bus company. He said details about the Aggies' arrival time somehow hadn't been passed along to the company.





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NCAA TOURNAMENT

Strong and sweet: SEC perfect so far

By MARK LONG

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — It's hard to mock Southeastern Conference basketball right now.

Panned for early season losses and relatively weak non-conference schedules, the league has three teams still playing in the NCAA tournament. Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee — the only SEC squads to make the 68-team field — all advanced to the Sweet 16 over the weekend, giving the SEC a perfect 7-0 mark in college basketball's premier event.

"I'm sure some people are pretty surprised at three SEC teams, because all I heard all year was that the SEC was in a down year and it was a weak SEC," Florida guard Scottie Wilbekin said Monday. "It's pretty cool to see three SEC teams in the Sweet 16."

The Gators (34-2), the tournament's overall top seed, will play fourth-seeded UCLA in the South Regional on Thursday night in Memphis, Tenn. Midwest No. 8 seed Kentucky (26-10), which handed Wichita State its only loss of the season Sunday, advanced to face fourth-seeded Louisville on Friday night. No. 11 Tennessee (24-12), which already has three tournament wins since opening play in the First Four, will join the Wildcats in Indianapolis and play Michigan on Friday.

Only two other conferences

— the Pac-12 and the Big Ten

landed three teams in the round
of 16. Both of those leagues were
ranked in the top three in conference RPI.

The SEC, meanwhile, ranked seventh, just ahead of the American Athletic Conference.

Florida coach Billy Donovan blamed early season struggles for the widespread perception that the league was down. "It's very, very unfair to pin a

league based on what happens in November and December," Donovan said Monday. "In a lot of ways, maybe some of the losses that our league took in November and December prepared them to be better in our league. I think our league can play with any league in the country.

"But I would say this: Just because certain league teams get knocked out early doesn't mean the league is overrated. And because a league really, really advances in the tournament doesn't mean the league is great. I just get upset when all of a sudden everybody just throws out and makes assumptions or draws conclusions of a league being good or bad based on what's happened in the non-conference. That to me is, I think, somewhat unfair."

There were plenty of eye-opening losses early.

Texas-El Paso upset Tennessee. Drexel beat Alabama. Northwestern State defeated Auburn. Davidson surprised Georgia. Massachusetts and Rhode Island topped LSU. Utah State knocked off Mississippi State. Missouri State stunned Texas A&M. And USC Upstate shocked South Carolina.

There also were setbacks in more high-profile matchups: Michigan State and Baylor beat Kentucky. Connecticut and Wisconsin defeated Florida. Texas, Providence, Butler and Saint Louis knocked off Vanderbilt.

So the SEC was down before its teams even started beating each other up.

It surely didn't help the league's image when Florida, which isn't close to being Donovan's most talented team, swept the regular season and the tournament. The Gators finished 18-0 in the regular season, becoming the first from a major conference to accomplish the feat since Indiana in 1976, and then beat Kentucky for the third time to win the tournament.

"When you have a stage and a platform and you're on television, you're allowed to say what you want to say." Vols coach Cuonzo Martin said. "I think sometimes perception becomes a reality. It's a very tough league, a very talented league. You've got the No. 1 team in all of college basketball in the SEC. You have the winningest college program in the SEC, in



PAGUY/AD

Florida center Patric Young scores in the Gators' third-round win over Pittsburgh.





No. 1 Florida vs. No. 4 UCLA AFN-Sports

2:30 a.m. Friday CET 10:30 a.m. Saturday JKT

Kentucky.

"I don't think the criticism is accurate. But the teams that are in the tournament, they won it because they're good teams"

It might not just be the teams in the tournament, either.

Entering Monday games, the SEC was 12-2 in postseason play thanks in part to wins by Georgia, Missouri, LSU and Arkansas in the NIT and Texas A&M in the College Basketball Invitational.

Of course, those victories hardly compare to what Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee have done.

"If everybody in the SEC was out of the tournament, they'd say, 'See, I told you the league is no good," Donovan said. "Now we've got some teams advancing, 'Wow, the league must be really, really underrated.' Sometimes it has to do with matchups, sometimes it has to do with who you're playing against. Sometimes it has to do with how well you're playing. There's a lot of variables that go into winning in postseason."

Little things add up for scrappy Badgers

By Genaro C. Armas The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The gritty point guard maneuvered around three taller defenders for a putback and a three-point play. A backup forward drew a turning-point charging call that riled up the bench.

It's the little things that helped carry Wisconsin into the program's third trip to the Sweet 16 in four seasons. Baylor is next on Thursday in a West region game in Anaheim, Calif.

The No. 2 seed Badgers don't typically boast the quickest or flashiest players, but they sure get the job done with a philosophy of playing smart, disciplined, and physically and mentally tough basketball.

"Especially here, at Wisconsin, they pride themselves on being tougher than the opponent — outworking them, out-toughing them on the court, which is why they've been able to have the success they've had," forward Nigel Hayes said.

That blueprint was on display

Saturday night before a pro-Wisconsin crowd that rocked the Bradley Center in Milwaukee. Down 12 at the half to up-tempo, physical Oregon, the Badgers rallied for an 85-77 victory to clinch a spot in the regional semifinals. Sure. 7-60cer Frank Kaminsky

had a team-high 19 points, and Ben Brust hit a highlight threepointer with 1:07 left that gave the Badgers (28-7) the lead for good.

But point man Traevon Jackson set the tone out of halftime by converting an air ball into a score and drawing a foul near a crowded bucket. Backup Duje Dukan drew the inspirational charge with about 9:30 left with the Badgers clinging to a four-point lead.

"How about a teammate saying probably the play of the game was Duje taking that charge?" coach Bo Ryan said. "Without a doubt if you saw our bench, if you looked at our bench when that happened, you looked at our bench when that happened, you looked at the play of the game."

So far this tournament, Wisconsin has routed methodical American 75-35 and its Princeton-style offense, and overcome Oregon's transition game and





Wisconsin vs. Baylor AFN-Xtra 12:30 a.m. Friday CET 8:30 a.m. Friday JKT

in-your-face defense. It helps to have once-decorated recruits like sophomore Sam Dekker, a 2012 Parade All-American, and Hayes, a freshman and the Big Ten's Sixth Man of the Year.

But Ryan is particular when it comes to intangibles that he looks for in recruits, and how those traits might translate once they're around the rest of the squad. No "me" players. Team first.

"Does somebody feel that they're the main reason why the game's being played?" Ryan said recently. "Do they have that kind of ego? Do they have that kind of work ethic you want to have? People that are going to be able to blend, mix, with the other guys ... and can adapt to the collegiate setting at a rigorous institution." The wide-eyed Dekker can add

energy. Kaminsky is a soft-shooting big man who can drive to the hoop. Combined with the athletic Hayes, they form probably the most offensively-skilled frontcourt that Wisconsin has had in a while.

The gritty heart of the team can be found in the three-man starting backcourt of Jackson, Brust and Josh Gasser, who usually draws the toughest defensive assignment.

"Bo has always grinded it out, pick the heck out of you," Oregon coach Dana Altman said last week. "That's just the way they play. It's a physical game. He recruits to that."

"Scrappy" has been another word used to describe Badgers players by opponents over the years.

"I think that's actually a compliment because it shows how tough every possession is," Jackson said. "As an offense, you think of playing against a team that's scrappy, that's not fun."



NCAA TOURNAMENT

Stanford preparing for surging Dayton

By Josh Dubow The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif.- Stanford coach Johnny Dawkins has had good reason to keep a close tab on Dayton because coach Archie Miller is recruiting his son to play there next season.

Dawkins will see the Flyers in a different light on Thursday night in Memphis. Tenn., when they play the Cardinal in a surprising Sweet 16 matchup between a pair of double-digit seeds.

With a spot in the regional final on the line, the recruitment of Aubrey Dawkins will be on the back burner for a few days.

"I think both staffs will be focused on the task at hand but it is a neat thing that he's being recruited by them and the success they're having," Dawkins said Monday.

"He really likes them. I'm just really happy for Archie and his program because I know how hard he's worked to get this opportunity so I know he's making the most

Aubrey Dawkins, who is attending a prep school in New Hampshire, is planning to come to the game. He is also being recruited by Pepperdine, Montana Utah State and the College of Charleston and is expected to make his decision next month.

For now, the focus is on his dad's team, which is proving to be a very tough out in the NCAA tournament after spending most of the season just fighting to get into it.

Stanford (23-12) used wins over higherseeded New Mexico and Kansas to make it past the first weekend of the tournament for just the second time since 2001 and give Dawkins his most significant victories in six seasons on The Farm.



Stanford's Josh Huestis, left, and Dwight Powell, right, celebrate as Kansas' Tarik Black watches in the background after the Cardinal's 60-57 win on Sunday.

The 10th-seeded Cardinal had little time to celebrate after knocking off No. 2 seed Kansas 60-57 on Sunday. They got home late Sunday night, held a film session and practice on Monday before flying the following day to Memphis, Tenn., where they will play 11th-seeded Dayton (25-10) in the only Sweet 16 matchup between doubledigit seeds

We celebrated yesterday after the win and on the flight back," guard Chasson Randle said. "But once we woke up this morning and got to the gym it was strictly about preparing for Dayton,'

The Cardinal are playing some of their

best basketball at the most important time. winning five of their past six.

This success has come after five years of struggles under Dawkins, whose job was in jeopardy had he not gotten Stanford to the tournament this season

"We've been working for this since we got to the school," forward Dwight Powell said. We put a lot of hours into preparing for the experience we're having now and the games we've played and the game we have coming up. It's been a work in progress.'

It paid off last weekend. They beat the seventh-seeded Lobos 58-53 on Friday despite getting no field goals from Powell,





Stanford (23-12) vs. Dayton (25-10) AFN-Sports Midnight Thursday CET 8 a.m. Friday JKT

their second leading scorer.

Stanford then used stellar defense to silence talented freshman Andrew Wiggins to beat Kansas 60-57 and get national recognition for the first time under Dawkins.

You're able to put your program in a different light when you're competing on a national stage and everyone is watching, Dawkins said. "You get a chance to show not only how well your players perform on the court but who they are as people. That's what excites me. You get a chance to learn about my players what I already know, I have an unbelievable group of kids to coach.

The Cardinal hadn't even made the tournament since 2008 under ex-coach Trent Johnson, when they also won two games before losing to Texas in the round of 16.

But none of this is new to Dawkins, who played in a national title game as a player and won it all as an assistant at Duke.

"The good thing about this for me is this isn't the first time I've been doing this, Dawkins said. "I've been here as a player and fortunately I've been here a number of years as an assistant coach. I'm just excited for our kids to have this opportunity."

Flyers finally get their shot at fame

By JOE KAY

The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio - For the last 14 years, the NCAA tournament has started with play-in games and the First Four at the University of Dayton Arena. The home team? Didn't even get in the bracket most times.

This year, it's flying high.

With two close wins under daunting circumstances, the Flyers have turned Dayton into more than just a starting point for the NCAA tournament. It's become a focal point.

President Obama is tweeting about it. The national media is talking about it. Students are staying up until the early morning hours celebrating the Flyers' first trip to the Sweet 16 in 30 years.

"This opportunity is a once-in-a-lifetime chance," guard Jordan Sibert said Monday before practice.

Given how things had gone lately for the Flyers, it felt like a lifetime since they'd been relevant in March.

Dayton was a mainstay in the tournament in the 1960s, finishing as the runner-up in 1967 with a loss to UCLA. The winning waned after 1990. Dayton went 10 years before its next tournament appearance and is making only its fifth NCAA trip in the last

Those Flyers fans who pack UD Arena for the First Four can keep cheering this time - which is exactly what they've been doing since the 11th-seeded Flyers (25-10) beat Ohio State 60-59 in Buffalo, followed by a 55-53 win over Syracuse. They'll play 10th-seeded Stanford (23-12) in Memphis on Thursday.

"We have to sort of come back down out of the clouds a little bit coach Archie Miller said, "There's just so much hype, media and the talk around you.

As soon as the Flyers finished off Syracuse, the pundits started talking about Miller possibly moving on after his third season rebuilding the program. He had privately agreed to a contract extension midway through the season, but wanted to hold off saying anything about it until the Flyers were finished.

On Monday, he and athletics director Tim Wabler announced the extension through the 2018-19 season, hoping it will dampen some of the where-will-he-gonext speculation.

Wabler thinks the Sweet 16 appearance will jump-start the program.

"It's credibility nationally." Wabler said. "It's putting us on



Dayton coach Archie Miller got a contract extension through 2019 after the Flyers made the round of 16.

the map as far as with recruits and saying Dayton not only is a great place to come to school and play, but now it's an even greater

The Flyers were still trying to get back on schedule Monday after their wild weekend. They returned to Dayton after the win over Syracuse, their bus reaching campus around 3:30 a.m. with an estimated 200 students waiting up to greet them.

"Well, I was a little bit worried that they were going to tip the bus over, seeing some of the photos and some of the action before we landed," Miller said. "It was overwhelming. I was happy for our fans and really happy for our students.

"This is what it's about, what in my mind that a proud tradition

Kansas freshmen left to weigh NBA futures

By DAVE SKRETTA The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS - Andrew Wiggins slumped in his seat. Wayne Selden stared into space. Joel Embiid was sure he would have been able to play if Kansas had only made it another week.

The Javhawks didn't, and now all three talented freshmen are left to ponder whether the NBA awaits, or whether they'll return to school and attempt to wipe away the disheartening memory of a loss to Stanford in the third round of the NCAA tournament.

"I'm not thinking about that right now," Wiggins said Sunday, barely above a whisper.

Soon, though. Very soon.

Wiggins is expected to be a lottery pick, perhaps even first overall, if he declares for the draft after his memorable freshman season. He's indicated all year long that he wouldn't be long for Lawrence. But only he knows whether the dud he played in the season finale four points on 1-for-6 shooting is the way he wants to punctu-

ate his college career. "Everything is a learning advice with young kids. And you know, this isn't the worst thing that's going to happen to him in his life," Jayhawks coach Bill Self said. "If it is, he's had a charmed life, there's no question about that.

"So you've got to grow from it," Self said. "When you get in these positions again, maybe do something a little differently, maybe to put yourself in the game or prepare or something. But hey, the kid's had a remarkable season."

Embiid may also be a lottery pick, and just may shove aside Wiggins for the first choice overall, if the 7-footer declares for the Draft. But the Cameroon native has only been playing basketball for a few years, and while his natural athleticism and Fred Astaire-like footwork have made scouts salivate all season it is clear that he still has plenty of room to improve.

But complicating the decision is the fact that Embiid hasn't played the past few weeks with a stress fracture in his back. His stock may never be higher.

Selden is the most likely to return. He showed flashes of brilliance this season, but also disappeared, most notably in the 60-57 loss to Stanford that ended the Jayhawks' season.

If any of the three come back next season, and the Jayhawks return everyone else that they expect, they should be the prohibitive favorite to win their 11th straight Big 12 title.

Heart to heart

Exclusive club creates special bond

The Associated Press hree years ago, Jeff Green joined one of the most exclusive clubs

in the NBA. He didn't ask to be a part of it. Didn't even know it existed until a doctor told him that he had an aortic aneurysm and his career with the Boston Celtics Open-heart surgery was looming and Green never

felt more alone, more uncertain. That's when the calls, the text messages, the overtures started coming. First from Fred Hoiberg and Etan Thomas, then from Ronny Turiaf.

They offered advice. They offered encouragement They had all been there before. And just like that, Green wasn't alone. But as he quickly found out, it was so much more than a club.

Hoiberg calls them the "Zipper Brothers" — a small and tight-knit group of players who have overcome serious heart ailments to continue playing at the highest level of a game that tests an athlete's heart as much as any does. Hoiberg cut his NBA career short after having open-heart surgery - and getting the zipper-like scar on his chest that birthed the nickname

enlarged aortic root in 2005. Thomas and Chris Wilcox were able to play after their own surgeries and Turiaf, Green and Phoenix Suns forward Channing Frye all missed a year while recover-ing but are still playing to this day. Chuck Hayes never needed surgery, but a heart abnormality found during a routine screening in 2011 did require significant testing before he was cleared to continue playing with Toronto.

"It's definitely a brotherhood," Turiaf said.
"It's something that's hard to put into words. We don't have to talk all the time. But when those instances happen, we talked, each and every one of us, some way, somehow, was linked with the other. And whenever we see each other, it's like, we made it

Unlike torn knee ligaments, blown Achilles tendons or dislocated shoulders, heart defects carry with them a much more frightening outlook. Boston's Reggie Lewis, Loyola Marymount star Hank Gathers and Atlanta Hawks center Jason Collier are among the players who have died during their playing careers from heart problems.

So when the diagnosis comes, so do the Zipper Brothers. Hoiberg, who now coaches Iowa State, was there for Turiaf. Turiaf was there for Green. Green was there for Frye. And Frye will be there

"The surgery that we had is rare and there's only a few guys that have had it," Green said. "We formed a bond that if we can help in any kind of way to help another fellow player or person that's having the surgery get through it, we're going to do it because it's rare that you really hear about an athlete having to go through something like this.

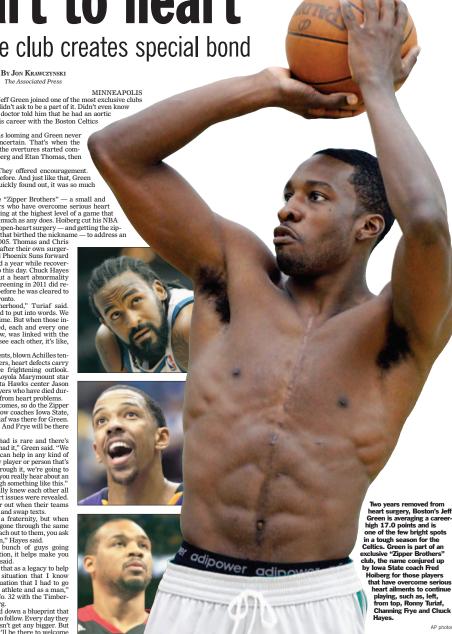
None of the players really knew each other all that well before their heart issues were revealed. Now they seek each other out when their teams play each other regularly and swap texts.

This whole league is a fraternity, but when you know somebody has gone through the same situation you have, you reach out to them, you ask them about their condition," Hayes said.

"Anytime you find a bunch of guys going through your same situation, it helps make you feel not as special," Frye said.

"I take pride in having that as a legacy to help others going through a situation that I know is probably the worst situation that I had to go through as a professional athlete and as a mar said Turiaf, who wears No. 32 with the Timberwolves in honor of Hoiberg.

Together, they have laid down a blueprint that they hope no one else has to follow. Every day they pray that their group doesn't get any bigger. But if does have to grow, they'll be there to welcome the next member just as they were welcomed.



NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
Toronto	39	30	.565	-			
Brooklyn	37	32	.536	2			
New York	29	41	.414	101/2			
Boston	23	47	.329	161/2			
Philadelphia	15	56	.211	25			
Southeast Division							
x-Miami	48	21	.696	-			
Washington	36	34	.514	121/2			
Charlotte	34	37	.479	15			
Atlanta	31	38	.449	17			
Orlando	19	52	.268	30			
Central Division							
x-Indiana	51	20	.718	-			
Chicago	40	31	.563	11			
Cleveland	27	44	.380	24			
Detroit	26	44	.371	241/2			
Milwaukee	13	58	.183	38			

western Conterence							
Southwest Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
x-San Antonio	54	16	.771	-			
Houston	48	22	.686	6			
Memphis	42	28	.600	12			
Dallas	42	29	.592	121/2			
New Orleans	30	40	.429	24			
Northwest Division							
Oklahoma City	52	18	.743	-			
Portland	45	26	.634	71/2			
Minnesota	34	35	.493	173/2			
Denver	32	39	.451	201/2			
Utah	23	48	.324	291/2			
Pacific Division							
L.A. Clippers	50	21	.704	-			
Golden State	44	27	.620	6			
Phoenix	42	29	.592	8			
Sacramento	25	45	.357	241/2			
L.A. Lakers	23	46	.333	26			
x-clinched playoff spot							
Sunday's games							

Sunday's games
Toronto 96, Atlanta 86
Phoenix 127, Minnesota 120
Denver 105, Washington 102
Sacramento 124, Milwaukee 10
Fooklyn 107, Dallas 104, OT
Cleveland 106, New York 100
LA. Lakers 103, Orlando 94
Monday's games
Houston 100, Charlotte 89

Miami 93, Portland 91 Phoenix 102, Atlanta 95 Chicago 89, Indiana 77 Oklahoma City 117, Denver 96 Memphis 109, Minnesota 92 New Orleans 109, Brooklyn 104, OT San Antonio 113, Philadelphia 91 San Antonio 113, Philadelphia 9.
Detroit 114, Utah 94
L.A. Clippers 106, Milwaukee 98
Tuesday's games
Portland at Orlando
Toronto at Cleveland
Oklahoma City at Dallas
New York at L.A. Lakers
Wednesday's games
Phoenix at Washington

Wednesday's games Phoenix at Washington Brooklyn at Charlotte Toronto at Boston Cleveland at Detroit Atlanta at Minnesota L.A. Clippers at New Orleans Miami at Indiana Denver at San Antonio New York at Sacramento Memphis at Utah

Clippers 106, Bucks 98

MILWAUKEE — Middleton 2-10 0-0 4, Adrien 4-11 6-6 14, Pachulia 7-11 0-0 14, Knight 3-12 2-2 9, Sessions 13-21 0-0 28, Henson 4-5 2-5 10, Mayo 3-7 0-0 8, Ante-tokoumppo 4-4 1-3 9, Udoh 1-4 0-0 2. To-tals 41-85 11-16 88.

LA. CLIPPERS — Barnes 3-6 0-9 0, 0... fin 10-19 7-9 27, Jordan 3-4 0-0 6, Paul 5-13 4-4 14, Collison 5-9 2-4 15, Davis 4-6 1-2 9, Crawford 4-11 4-4 13, Granger 2-3 4-4 9, Dudley 2-3 0-0 5, Türkoğlu 0-2 0-0 0. To-

Crawford 4 al. 4.4 13, Granger 2.9 4.4 13, 1813 8-78 22.7 106, Kingliu P. 2.9 4.4 13, 1813 8-78 22.7 106, Kingliu P. 2.1 14, 1813 8-78 22.7 14, 1814 15, 181

Pistons 114, Jazz 94

34-83 19-28 94.

Inree-Point Goals—Detroit 9-17 (Jen-ings 3-5, Smith 2-3, Singler 1-1, Jerebko 1-2, Stuckey 1-2, Caldwell-Pope 1-3, By-num 0-1), Utah 7-27 (Hayward 3-6, Jeffer-son 3-8, Williams 1-5, Garrett 0-2, Lucas III 0-2, Burke 0-4), Fouled Out—None. Re-bounds—Detroit 58 (Drummond 14), Utah 42 (Fayors 9), Assists—Detroit 23 (Synum 9), Utah 16 (Hayward 6). Total Fouls—De-troit 19, Utah 17, A-17,595 (19,911).

Spurs 113, 76ers 91

PHILADELPHIA — Thompson 3-7 0-0 8, Young 7-20 3-5 17, Sims 5-8 0-2 10, Cart-er-Williams 5-7 0-2 14, Varnado 0-0 0-2 0, 10, Williams 6-7 0-2 14, Varnado 0-0 0-2 0, 10, Williams 6-7-0-214, Varnado 0-0-0-20, Nunnally 0-3 0-0, Mare 0-3 0-0. 0, Mare 0-3 0-0. 0, Millens 6-11 0-0 15. Totals 36-88 8-18 91. 25 AM ANTONIO — Leonard 6-9. 7_10-5eph 5-11 2-2 12, Ginobili 3-7 2-4 9, Belinelli 2-7, 4-9, Daye 8-13 0-0 22, Mills 6-9. 0-0 15, Ayres 2-3 1-2 5, Baynes 0-2 0-0. 10 tals 44-79 12-16 113. Philadelphia 24 20 24 23-91 San Antonio Castal 3. 29 29 24-113.

Philadelphia 24 20 24 22-91 San Antonio 13 29 24-113 Three-Point Goals – Philadelphia 11-33 (Mullens 3-7, Williams 2-2, Thompson 2-4, Anderson 2-4, Carter-Williams 2-8, Nunnally 0-1, Ware 0-2, Young 0-5), San Antonio 13-27 (Daye 6-10, Mills 3-6, Diaw 1-2, Bellnelli 1-2, Leonard 1-3, Ginobil 1-3, Joseph 0-1), Fouled Out-None. Re-bounds—Philadelphia 50 (Mullens 8), bounds—Philadelphia 50 (Mullens 8), San Antonio 51 (Joseph 7), Assists—Phil-adelphia 22 (Sims 7), San Antonio 31 (Be-linelli 8). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 15, San Antonio 17. A—17,798 (18,797).

Pelicans 109, Nets 104

BROOKLYN — Johnson 4-14 6-6 15, Pierce 7-16-6-6 24, Plumlee 2-3 2-4 6, Williams 8-17 4-4 23, Livingston 4-11 2-3 10, A.Anderson 1-6 0-0 2, Thornton 1-6 1-3, Teletovic 3-7 1-1 9, Blatche 3-8 6-7 12, Gutlerrez 0-2 0-0 0, Totals 33-90 28-32 104. 4.
NEW ORLEANS — Aminu 0.5 3.4 3 Davis

NEW ORLEANS — Aminu 0-53 4-3, Davis 9-17 6e 24, Sitems and 0-0 0, Roberts 6-11 2-3.71, Evans 13-19-610 23, Ajinca 3-6 6-11 2-3.71, Evans 13-19-610 23, Ajinca 3-6 11 2-3.71, Evans 13-19-610 23, Ajinca 3-6 13, Babbirt 1-5, 2-5, Millier 0-1 0-0 0. Withey 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-85 20-27 109. Workey 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-85 20-27 109. Mew Orleans 20 23 13 25 11-109 Three-Point 20 23 13 25 11-109 Three-Point 20 23 13 25 11-109 Three-Point 20 23 13 25 11-109 Control 1-10, Blatche 0-2, Thornton 0-1, Guttlerree 1-1, Blatche 0-2, Thornton 0-2, New Orleans 3-20 (Roberts 3-5, Morrow 3-7, Riv-Poiled 0-11 - Mone, Rebounds - Brooklyn ers 1-1, Evans 1-2, Babbitt 1-4, Miller 0-1). Fouled Out-Mone. Rebounds—Brooklyn 51 (Plumlee 11), New Orleans 62 (Davis 14), Assists—Brooklyn 16 (Williams 5), New Orleans 19 (Evans 7). Total Fouls—Brooklyn 21, New Orleans 26. Technicals—Pierce, Evans, New Orleans defensive three second. A-14,599 (17,188).

Thunder 117, Nuggets 96

DENVER — Miller 4-10 3-5 12, Faried 5-1-2 11, Mozgov 5-8 2-3 12, Lawson 5-11-16 25, Foye 4-14 0-2 11, Fournier 2-5 1-3 Arthur 2-6 1-2 6, Brooks 1-8 3-4 5, Ran-

Denver Oklahoma City

Oklahoma City 4 13 18 27-111
Three-Point Goals—Derver 2-28 (Foye 3-9, Lawson 2-4, Randolph 1-2, Fournier 1-3-9, Lawson 2-4, Randolph 1-2, Fournier 1-4, Collison 1-1, Jones 1-1, Ibaki Homa City 11-2(Joakson 3-3, Butler 3-7, Fisher 1-1, Collison 1-1, Loans 1-1, Durant 1-1, Loans 0-1, Pointed Outself 1-1, Loans 0-1, Loa

Bulls 89, Pacers 77

INDIANA — George 8-22 4-4 21, West 4-12 6-6 14, Hibbert 0-5 3-4 3, G.Hilli 6-10 3-7, Stephenson 3-9 1-1 8, Turner 1-4 1-1 3, Mahinmi 1-1 1-2 3, Copeland 0-0 0-0 0, Sloan 2-4 0-0 4, Scola 1-4 0-0 2, Allen 1-1 0-0 2, R.Butler 0-1 0-0 0, S.Hill 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 27-73 19-21 77.



Bulls forward Tai Gibson celebrates after his dunk off a rebound against the Pacers on Monday in Chicago. The Bulls

CHICAGO — Dunleavy 6-12 0-0 13, Boozer 3-10 3-3 9, Noah 5-10 0-1 0, Hin-rich 7-13 2-2 18, JButler 3-10 5-6 12, Snell 0-6 0-0 0, Augustin 2-8 0-0 4, Glbson 9-15 5-23, Mohammed 0-0 0-0 0, Murphy 0-0 0-0 0, Shengelia 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-84 15-16 89.

to the mergenia of or 0 to 1 totals 35-96 middian indiana 19 15 2 21-77 chicago 15 18 11 25-89 Three-Point Goals—Indiana 4-10 G.Hill 2-3, Stephenson 1-1, George 1-6). Chicago 4-15 (Hinrich 2-4, bunleay 1-2, Butler Fouled of 1-1 total 1-

Grizzlies 109, T-wolves 92

MINESOTA — Brewer 6-10 2-3 15, Love 6-18 2-2 16, Dieng 5-10 1-2 11, Rubio 18 4-4 6, Martin 5-13 3-4 13, Muhamud 1-5 0-0 2, Cunningham 4-7 1-19, Budinger 3-9 2-2 9, Shved 1-7 2-2 5, Mbah a Moute 0-1 0-0 0, Hummel 2-2 0-0 6. Totals 34-90 17-20 92.

MEMPHIS — Prince 6-11 0-0 12, Ran-dolph 7-11 2-2 17, Gasol 6-13 2-5 14, Conuoipii r-11 2-2 17, Gasoi b-13 2-5 14, Con-ley 9-12 2-5 23, Lee 0-1 0-0 0, Calathes 1-4 0-0 2, Miller 4-8 1-1 11, Davis 6-8 0-0 12, Johnson 2-7 0-0 4, Koufos 4-11 0-0 8, Udrih 2-3 0-0 4, Leuer 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 48-

15 24 29 24-92 30 27 24 28-109 Memphis 30 27 24 28–109
Three-Poil: Goals-Minnesota 7.
Hummer 2-2, Love 2-8, Brewer List
24 (Hummer 2-2, Love 2-8, Brewer List
24 (Hummer 2-2, Love 2-8, Brewer List
25 (Hummer 2-2, Love 2-8, Brewer List
26 (Hummer 2-2, Love 2-8, Brewer List
27 (Love 2-8, Stephen 2-

Suns 102. Hawks 95

PHOENIX — Tucker 3-6 1-2 8, Frye 7-12 0 18, Plumlee 0-3 0-0 0, Dragic 8-15 2-2 1, Bledsoe 7-15 3-4 20, Mark Morris 6-9 4-4 17, Green 4-6 4-4 13, Marc.Morris 3-8 0-0 7, Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Len 0-0 0-0 0. Totals

ATLANTA— Carroll 5-8 7-7 19, Millsap 6-14 7-10 19, Antic 2-6 0-0 5, Teague 4-10 7-7 17, Mac 2-9 0-0 5, Brand 2-5 0-0 4, Williams 5-8 2-7 17, Schröder 0-0 0-0, Scott 4-10 1-2 9, Muscala 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 30-72 27-39 5

Heat 93, Trail Blazers 91

PORTLAND — Batum 4-8 0-0 11, Wright 2-7 1-2 7, Lopez 3-6 4-4 10, Lillard 3-15 12-14 19, Matthews 6-15 0-0 15, Williams 5-12 1419, Matthiews 6-15 0-0 15, Williams 5-12 5-517, Leonard 0-2-0-0, Robinson 3-5 2-2 8, Barton 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 28-74 24-27 91. MMAMI – James 13-2-36-9 32, Bosh 5-10 3-6 15, Oden 2-4 0-2 4. Chalmers 5-9 0-0 11, Douglas 0-3 0-0, Allen 3-10 0-08, Andersen 4-8 5-6 13, Cole 4-10 0-0 8, Battier 0-2 0-0 0, Beasley 1-5 0-0 2. Totals 37-84

14-23 93. Portland 25 17 19 30-91 Miami 22 24 26 21-93 Three-Point Goals—Portland (Batum 3-7, Matthews 3-11, Williams 2-6, Wright 2-6, Lillard 1-8, Barton 0-1), Miami 5-15 (Bosh 2-3, Allen 2-4, Chalmrest 3-13 (DOSR 2-3, Allen 2-4, Challmers 1-3, Dames 0-1, Cole 0-2, Douglas 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Portland 49 (Batum 10), Miami 56 (Andersen 11), Assists—Portland 18 (Lillard 6), Miami 16 (James 5). Total Fouls—Portland 17, Miami 24. A-20,030 (1)3,600).

Rockets 100, Bobcats 89

HOUSTON — Parsons 3-11 3-4 11, Jones 9-15 0-1 18, Howard 4-9 2-4 10. Beverley 2-10 0-0 8, Harden 11-19 5-7 31, Lin 4-6 0-2 10, Motiejunas 2-5 0-0 4, Asik 1-2 0-0 2, Hamilton 2-5 0-0 6. Totals 39-82 10-18

bounds—Houston 52 (Howard 10), Char-lotte 57 (Jefferson 11). Assists—Houston 22 (Harden 5), Charlotte 12 (McRoberts 4). Total Fouls—Houston 24, Charlotte 18. Technicals—Charlotte Coach Clifford. A—15.511 (19.077).



The Spurs' Tim Duncan, center, is pressured by the 76ers' Thaddeus Young, left, and Hollis Thompson during the first half Monday in San Antonio. The Spurs won 113-91.

Roundup

Spurs help extend 76ers' slide to 25

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO - The San Antonio Spurs knew the Philadelphia 76ers were coming in on a long losing streak.

They had no intentions of taking it easy on them.

Austin Daye had 22 points and Tim Duncan added 19 as the Spurs earned their 14th straight win with a 113-91 victory Monday night that sent the 76ers to their 25th consecutive loss.

Philadelphia will face Houston on Thursday with the dubious distinction of being a loss shy of tying the NBA record for consecutive losses set by the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2010-11. Before the game. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said he felt terrible for former assistant Brett Brown, now the 76ers' coach. But he added that he did not feel sorry for "one of my best friends," because pity would upset his former protégé.

"Obviously, it's a rough season for them," Duncan said. "It's a rebuilding season for them, [Brown] knows that, they know that. They have a lot of young guys. He's just trying to get the system in place that has them playing the way he wants them playing. It's a process. He knows that.

Kawhi Leonard and Patty Mills scored 15 points each and Cory Joseph added 12 for San Antonio, which maintained the league's best record at 54-16. The Spurs did not play starters Tony Parker, Tiago Splitter and Danny Green, but did not need them against the lowly 76ers.

Thaddeus Young and Michael Carter-Williams each scored 19 points, Byron Mullens added 15 and Elliot Williams had 14 for Philadelphia (15-56).

Heat 93, Trail Blazers 91: LeBron James scored 32 points, including a layup with 11.4 seconds left, and Chris Bosh capped his 30th birthday by blocking Damian Lillard's layup in the final moments as host Miami escaped

Rockets 100, Bobcats 89: James Harden scored 31 points and Dwight Howard had a double-double in his return to the court as visiting Houston earned its fourth straight win.

Suns 102, Hawks 95: Eric Bledsoe scored 20 points to lead four of his teammates in double figures as Phoenix won its fourth in a row, beating host Atlanta to pull even with Dallas for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Bulls 89, Pacers 77: Taj Gibson led five players in double figures with 23 points as host Chicago brushed off a poor offensive first half to rally past Indiana.

Thunder 117, Nuggets 96: Kevin Durant had 27 points and eight assists to help host Oklahoma City.

Caron Butler scored 23 points, his highest total since the Thun-der added him right after the trade deadline.

Grizzlies 109, Timberwolves 92: Mike Conley had 23 points and six assists, and Marc Gasol added 14 and 12 rebounds as host Memphis built an early lead and easily dispatched short-handed Minnesota.

Pelicans 109, Nets 104 (OT): Tyreke Evans scored a seasonhigh 33 points as short-handed New Orleans rallied from 22 down in the third quarter to beat visiting Brooklyn.

Pistons 114, Jazz 94: Andre Drummond had 19 points and 14 rebounds as visiting Detroit shot a season-best 55 percent to blow past Utah.

Clippers 106, Bucks 98: Blake Griffin had 27 points and 14 rebounds as host Los Angeles made it consecutive 50-win seasons with a lackluster victory over Milwaukee.

ORTS



Aztecs have had tough luck against their Sweet 16 foes

Page 27

MLB





The art of pitch framing can turn balls to strikes. save runs and even help win pennants By Joseph White The Associated Press

t was a crucial pitch in a game in the early 1990s. A fastball. Away.

When the ball hit Randy Knorr's mitt, the Toronto Blue Jays catcher moved it back over the strike zone.

The umpire called it a ball. 'Fifty-thousand fans in the stands are booing," Knorr said. "I knew it was a ball. I was just trying to bring it back over. And he smacked me in the back of the head and said: 'Don't ever do that to me again. You know that was a ball, and now you made everybody in the stadium think it was a strike. Don't do it again.'"

At that moment, at least, Knorr was no Jose Molina.

We've all seen it. When a game's on television, the center-field camera zooms in on the mitt, where the catcher does his best to massage balls into strikes. Sometimes it works;

sometimes it doesn't. Technically, it's an attempt to cheat an ingrained

and artful baseball deception as old as the neighborhood play at second base.

SEE EDGE ON PAGE 25

Inside:

Outbreak of elbow surgery, pained pitchers this spring, Page 24

■ Briefs: **Braves** release injured pitcher Ġarcia. Page 25

The Washington Nationals' Jose Lobaton catches the ball during a spring training workout in Viera, Fla. This spring, Nationals GM Mike Rizzo made a trade with the Tampa Bay Rays to acquire Lobaton, in part because aton rated well in pitch framing.

ALEX BRANDON/AP

